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TheHighlander

Thursday July 2 2026 | Issue 746

INSIDE: CELEBRATING HIGHLANDS GRADUATES PAGE 11-16 FREE

Leading the way

Connor Iles receives an award presented by principal David Waito at JDH graduation ceremony June 23.
Photo by Adam Frisk.

Townships talk short-term rental changes

By Mike Baker

Less than two years after townships in Haliburton County adopted new rules for short-term rentals (STRs), three of four lower-tier councils are contemplating major changes to the file.

Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East and Minden Hills all adopted a new bylaw regulating STRs in 2024. New rules came into effect that October, with municipalities requiring those looking to rent out vacation properties to first secure a licence with their local township.

Elected officials said the purpose of the bylaw was to shore up safety, with the licensing process requiring property owners to meet various safety standards and guidelines before being allowed to rent their space. There's also a financial benefit for municipalities, via application fees and a new municipal accommodation tax (MAT).

Highlands East was the first to initiate a review earlier this year, with mayor Dave Burton saying his council is "very willing to look at the bylaw. We understand it does need a bit of tweaking, and we will certainly do that."

The township's STR clerk and enforcement officer, Stacey Brown, told council June 23 that staff have identified several operational, interpretive and enforcement challenges that warrant refinement.

"Feedback from internal administration, the appeals committee process, and ongoing enforcement experience has highlighted opportunities to improve clarity, consistency and overall effectiveness of the bylaw," Brown said.

Staff are recommending a transition away from the current demerit point system for those who break the rules, which Brown said, "has proven administratively burdensome and difficult to apply consistently." She pitched transitioning to a more streamlined administrative monetary penalty (AMP) model when it becomes available.

Highlands East is also looking to add definition for water access dwellings, while requiring provisions for dedicated docking space and parking requirements associated with the number of bedrooms.

Continued **'Next'** on page 2

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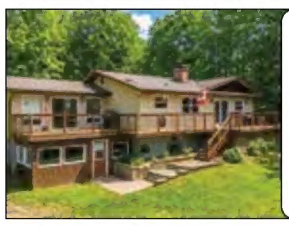

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Next councils to drive change

Continued from page 1

It looks as though the township will also continue with a public-access dashboard, so people can see the short-term rental address and registration number online.

A revised bylaw would also clarify structures to include features such as hot tubs and saunas.

CAO Brittany McCaw told council the program had a $6,059 surplus in 2025, so it did not cost taxpayers anything other than staff time.

Meanwhile, in Minden Hills, mayor Bob Carter said he expects his staff to provide a STR update to council this summer. He noted staff have been asked to speak to other townships to see what their experiences have been to see how the program can be run more efficiently.

"We're trying to determine what's working and what's not and go from there," Carter told *The Highlander* in the spring.

Last Tuesday (June 23), Dysart et al held a public meeting to decide whether to amend its rules to allow secondary residential spaces on a property to be rented out as short-term rentals. When council, in 2022, updated its zoning bylaw to allow accessory dwelling units (ADU) to be built on rural properties, it was decided then those units should be geared towards long-term rentals rather than short-term.

Last May, council said it wanted to move ahead with allowing short-term stays in ADUs, against the advice of township planner Jeff Iles. In bringing the file back last week, Iles said his opinion hasn't changed.

"Staff questions whether the proposal is good planning and whether this benefits the community as a whole," Iles said. "Staff are of the opinion this will impact our growth potential and long-term housing supply for the municipality."

Iles said the provincial government's reasoning for changing rules in its More Homes, More Choice bill in 2019 was to create 1.5 million new homes across Ontario by 2031 and that, by allowing ADUs to transition to STRs, council would be going against that.

In a public survey completed this year, Dysart asked people if they were in favour of allowing STRs in ADUs – 73 per cent of respondents said they were not.

Coun. Pat Casey said he supported allowing STRs in ADUs in town and rural areas, but not on the water. He said many landlords are opting to leave properties vacant right now, rather than rent out long-term given issues some have had with problematic tenants. He feels STRs give those owners a chance to make some money.

"The rental market has definitely soured… I did some digging and counted at least 50 rentals that have gone by the wayside [in Dysart] over the past 10 years," Casey said.

Councils are looking into rules regulating STRs. *File.*

The proposed change was shot down, though council was keen to ensure property owners wanting to rent out a secondary unit short-term be given the opportunity to plead their case. Iles said people can apply to make requests of council that can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

It's status quo in Algonquin Highlands as far as mayor, Liz Danielsen, is concerned. She feels the current rules are working well in her township.

"We haven't had any major concerns raised and really haven't had any kind of substantive discussion about STRs," Danielsen said. "It's always a good idea to do a bit of a review every once in a while, especially with something so new… but given that we've lost our planner and are in the process of hiring a new one, I would think it'll be the new council before there's any changes considered."

Danielsen confirmed Algonquin Highlands is the only township in the County that currently allows STRs in ADUs.

Dysart plans to run a public consultation later this year to gather more feedback, with Casey calling for an annual review of the STR file. Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie said, given a municipal election is four months away, this was one for the township's new council to pick up come fall.

> *"The rental market has definitely soured… I did some digging and counted at least 50 rentals that have gone by the wayside [in Dysart] over the past 10 years,"*
>
> ***Pat Casey***

No AI slop

County supports Habitat developments

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County council has supported Habitat for Humanity Peterborough and Kawartha Region's request to apply for $15.5 million in provincial funding through Infrastructure Ontario, with the money to be used to bring 57 new affordable housing units to Haliburton village.

Approved at last Wednesday's (June 24) County meeting, the loan will support construction of a 35-unit build on Peninsula Road and the repurposing of the Haliburton Heights timeshare on Wigamog Road, creating 22 condos.

The Peninsula Road project will feature all one and two-bedroom apartments, with the Haliburton Heights timeshare comprised of six studios, six one-bedroom units and 10 two-bed units.

Habitat's CEO, Susan Zambonin, confirmed most of the units would be sold via the non-profit's homeownership program. Fifteen of the Peninsula Road apartments will be sold to Places for People, a partner in the project, which intends to offer them for below-market rent.

Zambonin told County council last week that securing a low-interest loan through Infrastructure Ontario would save Habitat big money.

"If we were to borrow this money from a bank, we would spend more than $1 million on interest fees. On top of that, we'd also have to come up with more than $4.5 million of our own money before we can start drawing down on a construction loan," Zambonin said. "That's $4.5 million we could be spending on other projects, helping other families."

Susan Zambonin, centre, was at the June 24 County meeting. *File.*

Treasurer Andrea Robinson said the County had sufficient borrowing capacity under both the Municipal Act's annual repayment limit (ARL) and the County's debt policy to accommodate the request.

Through the Municipal Act, the province allows municipalities to borrow money up to 25 per cent of its 'own source' revenues – this includes property taxes, user fees and investment income. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing calculates ARLs annually, with the County's 2026 limit pegged at just over $5.1 million.

After taking into account the Habitat loan, Robinson said the County would still have approximately $1.25 million of wiggle room on its ARL.

The treasurer said the agreement stipulates the loan should be repaid in a maximum of three years. Zambonin said the plan would be to start selling units as soon as she has approval to build, committing to repay the full $15.5 million within 120 days of completion of the Peninsula Road project.

Coun. Liz Danielsen was concerned about the risk the County would be taking on. Robinson confirmed the County would be responsible for repaying the loan to the province should Habitat not be able to meet its obligations. The non-profit has committed to paying all interest payments for the duration of the loan.

County CAO Gary Dyke said, given how extensive the Infrastructure Ontario application process is, he feels the County would be sufficiently protected.

"Based on our review and the partnership we're looking at doing, we feel the risk is well-mitigated," Dyke said.

Zambonin said she's hoping to tap into federal grants to help pay for construction. She said, if Habitat didn't raise enough money to pay the loan back on time, the non-profit has a $1 million development line of credit and $13 million in mortgage receivables it can use as collateral to secure an additional bank loan, if necessary, to make the County whole.

Coun. Cec Ryall asked how many of the 57 units would go to County residents. Zambonin said she hoped all of them.

"As soon as we have construction financing secured, we will start advertising in Haliburton County that we're looking for homeowners. Our goal is all 57 units will be filled by people who live or work in Haliburton County," she said.

Land Trust wants help naming new nature reserve

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust recently acquired a 200-acre nature reserve on Plantation Road between Minden and Carnarvon.

As a first step, they are looking to give it a name.

On Wednesday (July 1), the land trust kicked off a County-wide naming contest.

"To avoid a Boaty McBoatface situation (funny as that might be), rather than a public poll, we have selected a panel of seven judges drawn from land trust staff and board members, as well as community members, to decide on the winning name," the land trust said.

There will be prizes and the winner, in addition to having their property name formally adopted, will win a $500 gift card to Delancey Sports. There are also prizes for the runners up, including a $250 gift card for Algonquin Outfitters for second place, a G20 drill set from Emmerson Lumber for third place (estimated value $150) and a Keter Samoa Deck box from Minden Canadian Tire for fourth place.

Starting at 9 a.m. on Canada Day, submissions can be entered through the HHLT website via the contest webpage. Up to three names can be shared and only one submission can be sent in per person. You may also submit your reasoning for each name you enter. Names can be submitted until the 9 p.m. July 25. The winners will be revealed on Aug. 8.

The new nature reserve will be open to the public and feature an extensive trail system that includes a large boardwalk. Given there aren't many public natural spaces between Minden and Carnarvon with trails exclusively for walking and biking, they are hoping the new property will be a peaceful place for people to enjoy year-round.

"The nature of the property makes it quite accessible for a wide variety of walkers; the front fifth of the reserve is open field and plantation forest on flat terrain, with only a slight slope to access the boardwalk. The back half of the property is hillier and dominated by lovely mature hardwood forest and dotted with wetlands. The wetlands are particularly beautiful in the springtime as a large amount of pink lady's slipper decorate the forest in early June," the land trust said.

"We hope every nature lover in the County will soon be enjoying the newly-named haven." *(Lisa Gervais)*

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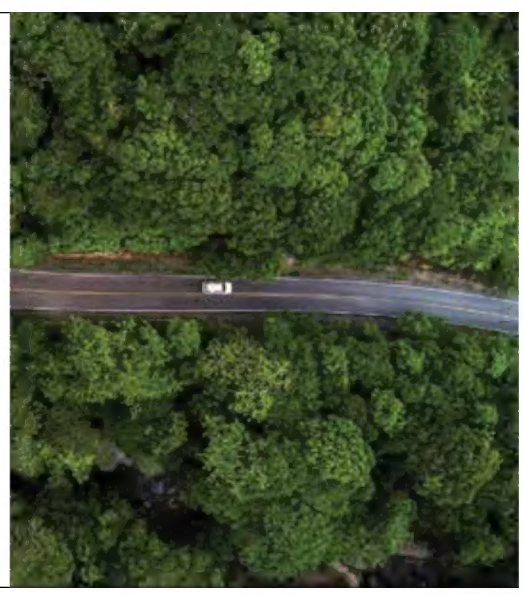

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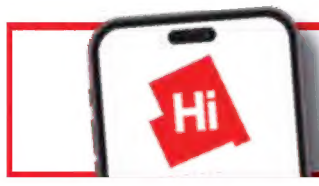

No trolls

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

Zooming in

Council has shelved a discussion on rules over elected officials tuning into council meetings virtually until the next term.

The request came from deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux at a June 18 meeting. She wanted council to consider changes to the township's procedural bylaw that could open the door for seasonal residents who aren't in the area year-round to attend meetings over Zoom, rather than in-person. It was noted the current bylaw allows for officials to attend virtually under certain circumstances.

Though Dailloux didn't attend the recent meeting, mayor Liz Danielsen said the deputy mayor felt the rules currently discriminate against cottagers seeking a role on council, though she didn't agree.

"I feel rather strongly that it is more productive for people to meet in-person. I think the taxpayers want to know their representation is local, accessible and here if they need them," Danielsen said.

While council utilized Zoom for meetings during the pandemic, Danielsen said that was different as all members were in the same boat. Coun. Lisa Barry felt it would be a strange dynamic having most of council meet in-person and one member tuning in via video.

The issue will be revisited in the fall following October's municipal election.

Vacant land

Township staff have been directed to prepare two of four vacant, but valuable, municipal lots for sale.

Planner Sean O'Callaghan said the township holds land on Little Hawk Lake Road, along Hwy. 118 and in the Maple Lake estates property. He said the township has to retain the parcel on Little Hawk Lake Road because it's part of the old landfill site and recommended holding onto the Hwy. 118 property, which has been offered to Habitat for Humanity for an affordable housing development.

He did suggest selling the two properties within Maple Lake estates, saying "there's nothing to be gained by holding onto them." After council agreed, O'Callaghan said the land would be appraised and sold at fair market rate.

Danielsen said she was disappointed following a first round of talks with Habitat last year.

"I didn't get a feeling of great enthusiasm there. I almost heard more roadblocks than move-forward steps," the mayor said.

Planner Sean O'Callaghan has left Algonquin Highlands for Bracebridge. *Courtesy of AH.*

O'Callaghan said without municipal sewer or water, Habitat may be limited by the number of units it can build.

"That's a challenge when they're trying to maximize their return [on investment]."

The meeting was O'Callaghan's last as the township's planner. He's leaving to take up a similar role with the Town of Bracebridge. *(Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Mike Baker)*

No tech bros

U-Links calls for projects

By Mike Baker

Frank Figuli said one of the most effective ways for people to make a positive difference in the Highlands is to partner with U-Links to bring a focused, community-based research project to life.

The non-profit's program coordinator said U-Links is actively taking on proposals from the public, with initiatives typically centred on environmental, cultural, social and economic issues.

Once a project has been approved, Figuli said U-Links markets them to students from Trent and Guelph universities.

Last year, the organization worked with 239 students on 38 projects across the County. Some of the major initiatives included analyzing the viability of artificial loon nesting platforms, how to implement underground greenhouses in Haliburton County; and whether municipal digesters are an effective tool to reduce landfill waste.

As of early June, Figuli said he had found students for five projects for the 2026-27 academic year, though he's hoping to match last year's total. Rather than assigning proposals to young researchers, Figuli said U-Links allows students to pick their projects. That's why some proposals have sat on the shelf for many years.

"I don't cherry pick. Anything we have an opportunity to pursue, we pursue. The bottleneck comes because it's up to students to apply," Figuli said. "That's really the best way – then you know you're getting someone who's passionate and excited about what they're doing. You're going to have more heart and soul put in."

There will be more work done this fall on the artificial loon nesting platform study, while students will also look into seasonal apple production in community kitchens, help develop a hazardous algae bloom reporting framework for the County, and provide data-driven insights for CanoeFM's future.

U-Links is looking to the community to submit ideas for future research projects. *File.*

While Figuli said about 80 per cent of U-Links programming is environmental, thanks largely to offerings under its Woodlands and Waterways Eco-Watch program, there are interesting proposals ready to go in other sectors.

U-Links has one project drafted with the Haliburton basic income group, to investigate the benefits of a guaranteed livable wage and potential pathways to making it happen. Figuli said he's also been working with Canoe's Roxanne Casey on a project unpacking the history of the radio station building, which was once a Red Cross Outpost.

There's also a project with the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation to do a follow-up on a feasibility study completed in 2022. The organization wants to build a new performing arts facility and has secured land on Wonderland Road.

"We're looking to do a community and stakeholder assessment for them, looking at things from the public's perspective on what they want for programming and amenities they want in a new building," Figuli said. "We don't have matches for any of these projects yet, but we're hoping to have them paired with students for the fall."

For anyone looking to pitch a new idea, Figuli said they have until Aug. 10 to firm up their interest. There's a PDF on the U-Links website for people to follow-up. They need to provide a brief description of the problem or challenge they're facing, what questions they'd like answered and how the project would benefit the community.

"If there's a person or an organization that doesn't have the bandwidth or resources right now to approach something they're interested in, a community-based research project is a great way to support that, provide an experiential learning opportunity to somebody entering the professional workforce, and get their questions answered 99 per cent of the time," Figuli said.

MTO delivers washroom at Skyline

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) had workers at Skyline Park in Haliburton June 15-17 for the installation of the new year-round washroom facilities.

A part of Haliburton Rotary's two-year rehabilitation project at the park, the washrooms are wheelchair accessible confirmed Charles Wheeler, a local Rotarian and lead of the project. He said the building, which contains two toilets, has a 2,000-gallon holding tank that will be routinely pumped out.

The washroom building was manufactured in Thunder Bay and shipped to Haliburton. It was brought into the site on an oversized truck bed and lifted onto the concrete pad with a crane.

Wheeler said the building weighed 32,385 pounds, making the installation a "tough job." The MTO assumed the costs, estimated at $65,000. Wheeler said the washrooms would be opened this summer.

Further accessibility upgrades planned this year include a new upper viewing platform, constructed from donated granite, the installation of six historical display boards and Indigenous land acknowledgment. There will also be a second picnic shelter installed. Wheeler said the project is on budget at $200,000, including the MTO contribution. *(Mike Baker)*

Workers use a crane to lift the washroom building. *Submitted.*

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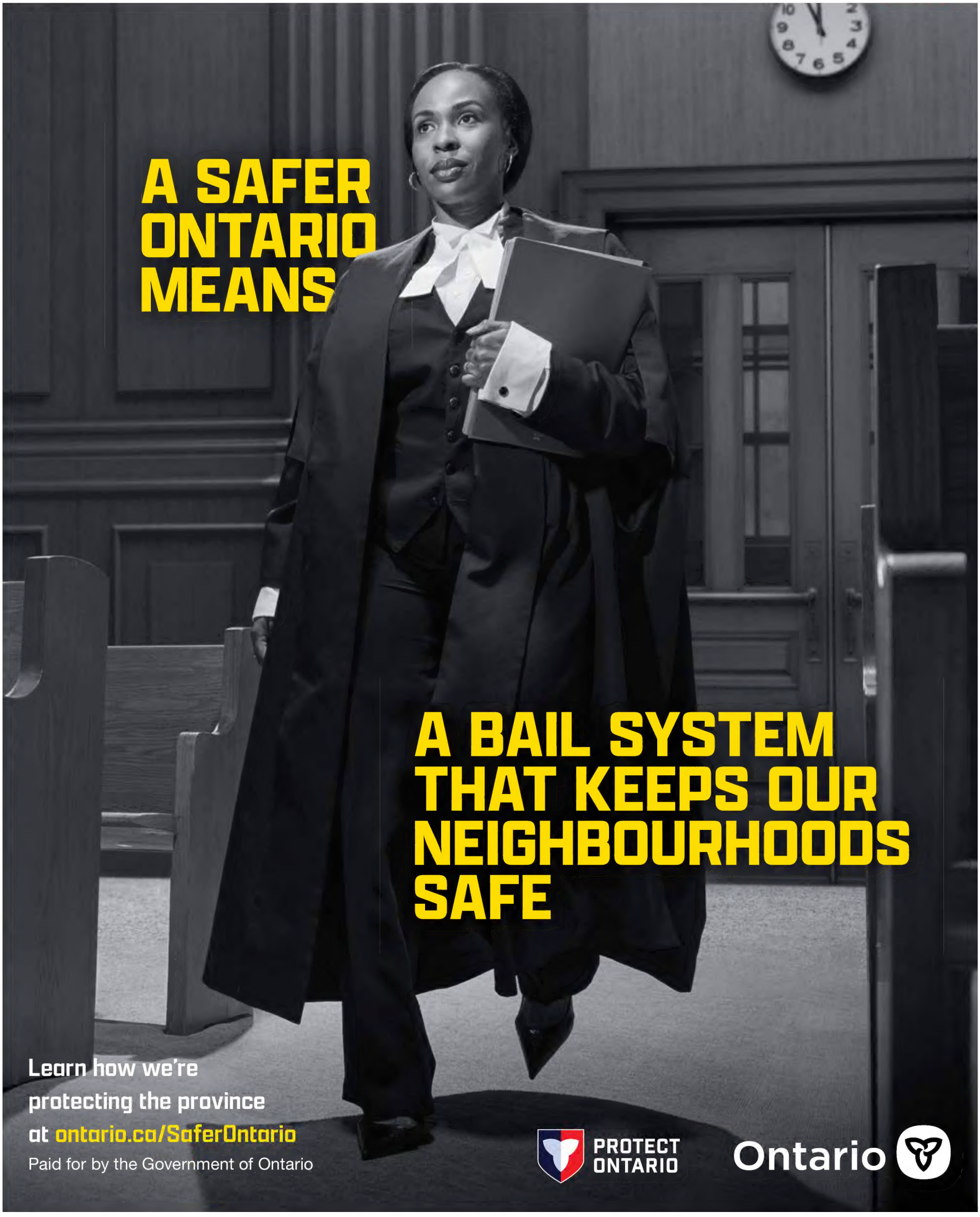
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No misinformation

Highlander news

Highlands East celebrates its 25th birthday this year. *File.*

HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

No BYO for events

Highlands East will not permit the public to 'bring your own' (BYO) alcohol onto municipal lands and green spaces.

The province now allows people aged 19 and older to bring and consume their own alcohol within a designated area of a cultural or community event that has been approved by a municipality - or held in connection with, and in proximity to, a professional, semi-professional or post-secondary sporting event.

Municipalities have the option to designate community or cultural events as eligible for the new BYO event permit. However, they are not required to do so.

Property supervisor, Jim Alden, recommended at a June 23 council meeting that Highlands East not allow BYO event permits.

"Outdoor alcohol-related events present increased risk. Staffing coverage cannot be provided and it can be challenging to effectively manage and confine the event within defined boundaries," Alden said.

He noted community centre rentals will not be affected, and events involving alcohol will continue to be allowed at municipal facilities, provided all required permits, certificates, and conditions are met.

New dog bylaw

Bylaw enforcement officer, Wayne Galloway, brought the final draft of an updated dog bylaw to council.

Galloway said key updates include: the introduction of administrative penalties; additional authority under the Municipal Act; and new definitions such as 'dangerous dog,' 'class one and class two kennels' being more clearly defined, and 'muzzle and muzzles orders' added.

He told council it will make enforcing the bylaw more efficient, as well as providing more teeth for staff to follow up on complaints.

Roads needs study

Council approved hiring a consultant to do the township's roads needs study.

Public works manager, Perry Kelly, recommended Jp2G Consultants Inc. to do the roads needs study, and the provisional traffic study and count, for $60,934. He asked that an additional unbudgeted amount be offset by lease revenue from Tri-Star.

Kelly said, "this work will support staff in making informed financial decisions and improving forecasting."

The bylaw, with agreement, will come to the next Highlands East meeting.

Township turns 25

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Highlands East, economic development coordinator, Michele Little, told council.

She came to the meeting with some ideas on how to mark the occasion.

One is doing a passport that takes people to the five hamlets throughout the summer. Once finished the passport, visitors will be able to bring it to the information centre for a token/souvenir.

She added former economic development coordinator, Joanne Vanier, suggested a 25th anniversary geocache and "there is a beautiful spot at North Bay beach where it could be located."

In addition, Matt Barnett has prepared a video documentary with a theme of 'togetherness.'

Little said there's $10,000 in the 2026 budget for celebrations, including money for beautification projects.

Council gave her the green light to proceed with all of her suggestions.

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Why we made it

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How to use it

You don't need to create an account to use the app. But if you do, there are two benefits. First, you can choose which categories you want to see. Second, you can get notifications on your phone. There's a breaking news category, so anytime there is something urgent and important happening in the county, you can be notified. To create an account, just follow the links on the screen.

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We know you might enjoy commenting on Facebook. But a downside of comments is that misinformation can spread. Without moderation, which is an impossible job for us, the value of the app would be lost. The Highlander's reporters are trained journalists, which means they follow rules so that what they post is as accurate as possible. They are also accountable because they live and work in our community. If they make a mistake, readers tell us – and we fix it. We hope that this approach will create an environment that is useful and pleasant.

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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We acknowledge and appreciate financial assistance from the Government of Canada

Win-win all around

By Mike Baker

Kudos to Haliburton County council for putting its money where its mouth is last week.

The upper-tier municipality has agreed to go to bat for Habitat for Humanity Peterborough and Kawartha Region, applying for $15.5 million in construction financing through Infrastructure Ontario to help the non-profit bring 57 new affordable housing units to the Highlands.

Habitat has committed to building 35 one and two-bedroom condos on Peninsula Road, overlooking Grass Lake. They've partnered with County-based non-profit Places for People on that project, which has committed to purchasing 15 units and offering them at below-market rent, per their housing model. The rest will be sold to prospective homeowners.

Habitat is also proceeding with a deal to purchase the old Haliburton Heights timeshare on Wigamog Road. CEO Susan Zambonin said the plan is to repurpose the property into 22 condos – six studios, six one-bedroom units and 10 two-bedroom units.

There's a fairly aggressive timeline for both projects, with Habitat committing to repaying the loan back within three years. Zambonin said the money will be recouped from selling units to people through Habitat's homeownership model.

Contrary to what some may believe, Habitat doesn't simply give away the homes it builds. It sells them to people who can't get a traditional mortgage. To qualify, applicants require a household income that supports homeownership, Zambonin said, but is less than $95,000 a year; no outstanding debt; and a credit score of 600 or more. People must secure an initial mortgage through an eligible credit union, with Habitat making up the difference with a second mortgage.

Through Habitat's model, Zambonin said people never pay more than 30 per cent of their income towards housing costs – which includes insurance, condo fees and property taxes.

These projects are a major win for the community and it's a step in the right direction to see our councils working closely with Habitat to make these builds a reality. Dysart et al council has also been involved, though hasn't committed any financial support.

We know there's been discussions between Habitat and Algonquin Highlands, too, about building on vacant land the township owns along Hwy. 118. While there's nothing immediately forthcoming there, it's encouraging to see so many coals on the proverbial fire.

While the County deal won't actually cost the upper-tier a dime, with Habitat committing to paying all interest charges for the duration of the loan, it would have been easy for council to play it safe and turn this proposal down, citing too much liability.

But, if we're going to make any headway into diminishing the region's housing crisis, it's bold projects like this one that our municipalities have to get behind. With a depleted economy and uncertainty over raw materials such as steel and timber – both in terms of cost and availability – there aren't too many developers stepping up to the plate to make housing happen right now. So, it's on our councils and municipal staff to get creative.

There are other tangible benefits to all of this too. Zambonin said anyone who purchases a Habitat property will be required to complete 500 hours of community service in Haliburton County. With many of our service clubs and volunteer-driven efforts in need of additional manpower, this could create a groundswell of much-needed support and activism in our community.

A win-win all around, if you ask me.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Continuing to stay strong

By Susan Tromanhauser

The trails just beyond the Frost Centre on Hwy. 35 represent a pivotal moment in Karen Koehler's life; one that led her to becoming a world champion.

The Montreal native relished spending summers at the cottage her father built on Wren Lake, but barely tolerated family treks in the winter because time was focused on cross-country skiing the freezing trails of the Frost Centre. But, when the shy, self-described "nervous Nellie" discovered she was the best cross-country skier in her elementary school, it changed her life. Confidence emerged, as did a competitive mindset.

The cottage was where Koehler met her future husband. There is a picture documenting the moment; Koehler lying in her crib and young cottage neighbour Rob Sargent looking puzzled at a baby. When Koehler turned 11, she suddenly thought the neighbour kid "got tall and cute." But she had to wait until she was 18 for Sargent to notice her and the two began long-distance dating - Koehler in Montreal, Sargent in Toronto. Eleven years later, they married, deciding Algonquin Highlands, where they met and fell in love, was where they wanted to live.

The couple purchased a home on Kushog Lake and brought a rescue dog into their family. Struggling to ensure the high-energy pet got enough exercise, Koehler strapped on her old cross-country skis from her Frost Centre days and hooked them up to the dog for a run. Koehler was exhilarated. She was even more excited when she discovered her new hobby was called Skijoring and was a competitive sport. Within a few years, Koehler was travelling the world with her dog, becoming a world champion.

When Koehler turned 50, she feared her competitive days were over, but gave a quick glance at her fellow competitors, and spotted a woman who was winning at the age of 63. Again, Koehler's drive kicked in, and she knew she could keep going. She changed her diet, added strength training and flexibility to her routine, and focused on getting adequate sleep. She immediately lost weight and felt better.

She was compelled to share what she learned with other women who were "living with the frustration their bodies were changing and losing confidence." Koehler said, "it's easy to put ourselves last but if we take care of ourselves, get back strength and energy, we can be good for decades to come."

Koehler began working with women as a personal trainer and mindset coach, dubbing her enterprise "Buncho Momentum" in honour of the dog who led her to the world championship. She is also writing a book: *Strong for Long*, showcasing extraordinary women living their outdoor lives, no matter their age.

Karen Koehler. *Submitted.*

While driving on Hwy. 35, Koehler often pulls into the Frost Centre parking lot to reminisce and silently give thanks to her parents for imposing family time on those trails; the trails that led to the strong, competitive woman she is today.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Be proactive for pedestrians

Dear editor,

We are writing in response to the June 18, 2026 column in *The Highlander* regarding the suggested need for more research and analysis as to whether the proposed crosswalk in downtown Minden is necessary. The concern seems to be the loss of parking spaces.

Our concern is the potential loss of life or severe injury, especially to our young and the elderly. The current two 'courtesy crosswalks' are, in our opinion, unsafe. We have personally experienced, while attempting to cross the street both at the CIBC and at the bridge, being ignored by vehicles. A clearly designated crosswalk with flashing beacons would be a minimum requirement in most municipalities.

Rather than having congestion on our main street, well-designated signage pointing to other public parking options would alleviate this lack of four parking spaces. Most people are not aware that there are other options because there is no signage. We have plenty of parking available at the municipal building, behind The Village Green and behind the Dominion Hotel as well as the old IGA parking lot on Bobcaygeon Road. Most tourists or new visitors do not know these options exist and a few signs would go a long way while allowing those four spaces in downtown Minden to be used as a pedestrian crossing.

Improving and making pretty the walkway between Conybeare's Butcher Shop and our main street would also aid in opening up our town and businesses, negating the need for everyone trying to park downtown. It's a wonderful shortcut and would draw attention to three businesses, specifically Ommmh Beauty Boutique, EAT Cheeserie + Cocktails and Coneybeare's which many tourists do not know exist.

Let's be proactive for our pedestrians as opposed to our vehicles.

Karin Kleer and Peter McGinn
Minden Hills

Brooksong on What the Haliburton

Dear editor

I am not one to lose myself in long podcasts - usually, I like to get to the point. But for some reason, the recent *Highlander* 'What the Haliburton' podcast featuring the Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre pulled me in, and I am grateful I pressed play.

What I found was far more than an organizational overview; it was a deeply moving testament to the kind of deep dive, hands-on care we so often lose sight of in our daily grind. Brooksong is a sanctuary for those navigating the shadow of cancer - not just the patients, but the families and friends caught in the painful ripple effects of that diagnosis.

The conversation between executive director Barb Smith-Morrison and hosts Lisa Gervais and Bram Lebo was remarkably thoughtful. For the first 40 minutes, you are brought into the profound intentionality behind their work - the quiet, meticulous planning that happens long before a guest arrives, and the equally vital emotional scaffolding that remains long after they have gone home. It is a reminder that, like any craft, true healing requires both skill and a steady hand.

The final five minutes of the podcast hit home with a different kind of urgency. It is a sobering reality that, in a world that often puts a price tag on human dignity, Brooksong refuses to. By keeping these retreats entirely free to the participants, they ensure that the burden of cancer is never compounded by the burden of a bank account.

Brooksong is a vital piece of the human infrastructure here in Haliburton County - a project that thrives on the goodwill of individuals and the foresight of charitable foundations. I cannot do 45 minutes of such profound connection justice in this short space, so I urge my fellow readers to reach out to *The Highlander* and listen to the episode yourselves. It is a necessary reminder of what we are capable of when we collectively decide that, regardless of economic status, no one should ever be left behind.

Armin Weber
Eagle Lake

Alto high-speed rail for Canada

Dear editor,

I received a four-page flyer from our MP in my mailbox.

It is dense with details about Alto, Canada's first proposed high-speed rail. I'm not sure all those details are accurate. And it does invite another perspective: tomorrow's infrastructure needs.

Canada is late getting high-speed rail. Countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and, of course, the U.S. are way ahead of us. Why high-speed rail? Economy, employment, environment.

A February 2026 American report (Economic Impact of Public Transportation Investment) stated that for every one billion dollars invested in public transit, there is a five-billion-dollar payback.

Without the efficiency of GO Transit, for example, gridlock costs billions in lost productivity annually in Ontario.

Environmental benefits: high-speed rail is three to eight times more energy-efficient than cars and planes; greatly reduces CO2/ greenhouse gas emissions; removes people from congested highways and short flights; reduces garbage, stink and noise from highway traffic and highway construction; decreases messy expensive accidents; avoids airport noise and expansion. An idling car in traffic for an hour emits about 10 kg of CO2 equivalent. Smog.

Transiting workers can read, sleep, work, save significant commuting time, avoid bad weather and workdays lost because of road outages.

Labour benefits: generates billions to the economy by direct job creation (engineers, surveyors, environmental specialists, heavy equipment operators, technicians, welders, linesmen, etc.) and by improving labour mobility, allowing workers to access better jobs/expand job skills without having to move, businesses can access a wider talent pool.

Dedicated passenger rail, please. Sharing rail with freight will delay and disrupt your commute.

Economic benefits: increases tourism for visitors to Canada; connects communities to business hubs; significantly stimulates real estate; projected increase to Canada's annual GDP up to 1.1 per cent.

The Alto train website is informative, invites input and answers questions.

Nell Thomas
Minden Hills

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Guenter Horst snapped this turtle on Bobcaygeon Road.

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THIS WEEK:

Hope and Healing Through Brooksong

Highlander business

Hi Just the Highlands

14-year-old entrepreneur Kadyn Gilooly has launched The Lemon Bar. *Photos submitted.*

Teen squeezing life out of lemons

By Mike Baker

When life gave Halls Lake teen Kadyn Gilooly lemons last summer, she embraced the old cliché and immediately got to work figuring out how to turn them into lemonade.

The now 14-year-old is one of the top up-and-coming motocross racers in the province. After a knee injury ended her 2025 season prematurely, Gilooly used her spare time putting together a business plan for her new venture, The Lemon Bar, which has been making the rounds across Haliburton County this summer.

A mobile refreshment trailer serving homemade lemonade and other specialty drinks, Gilooly has been busy getting her new brand out to the public in recent weeks. She was at Snowflake Meadows' magical festival fundraiser and the Haliburton County Fair in June, the Minden Canada Day celebrations July 1 and served at her first birthday party last Saturday (June 27).

Gilooly said she plans to attend the Norland Fair July 9 and the Sunset Social event in Head Lake Park in Haliburton July 11.

The concept, she said, was born out of a desire to keep busy while she was hurt. The branding and menu were established last summer, with Gilooly approaching her dad, Kieran, who owns Northern HVAC, for a business loan. She wanted to use the money to repurpose an old trailer on her parents' property into The Lemon Bar's new digs, though eventually found a better deal online.

"I got the idea from motocross – there have been a few stands up at my races and I always looked forward to trying them out. So, I figured why not do something like that for myself," Gilooly said. "We bought a lot of the equipment and syrups last year, so we were ready to launch right away as soon as the weather started getting better."

The young business owner said "we squeeze to please" with every beverage. While traditional lemonade is a favourite, there are other flavourful options including the shark attack, sugar cloud, peach paradise, pink dragon, the kraken and mermaid escape – a sugar-free option.

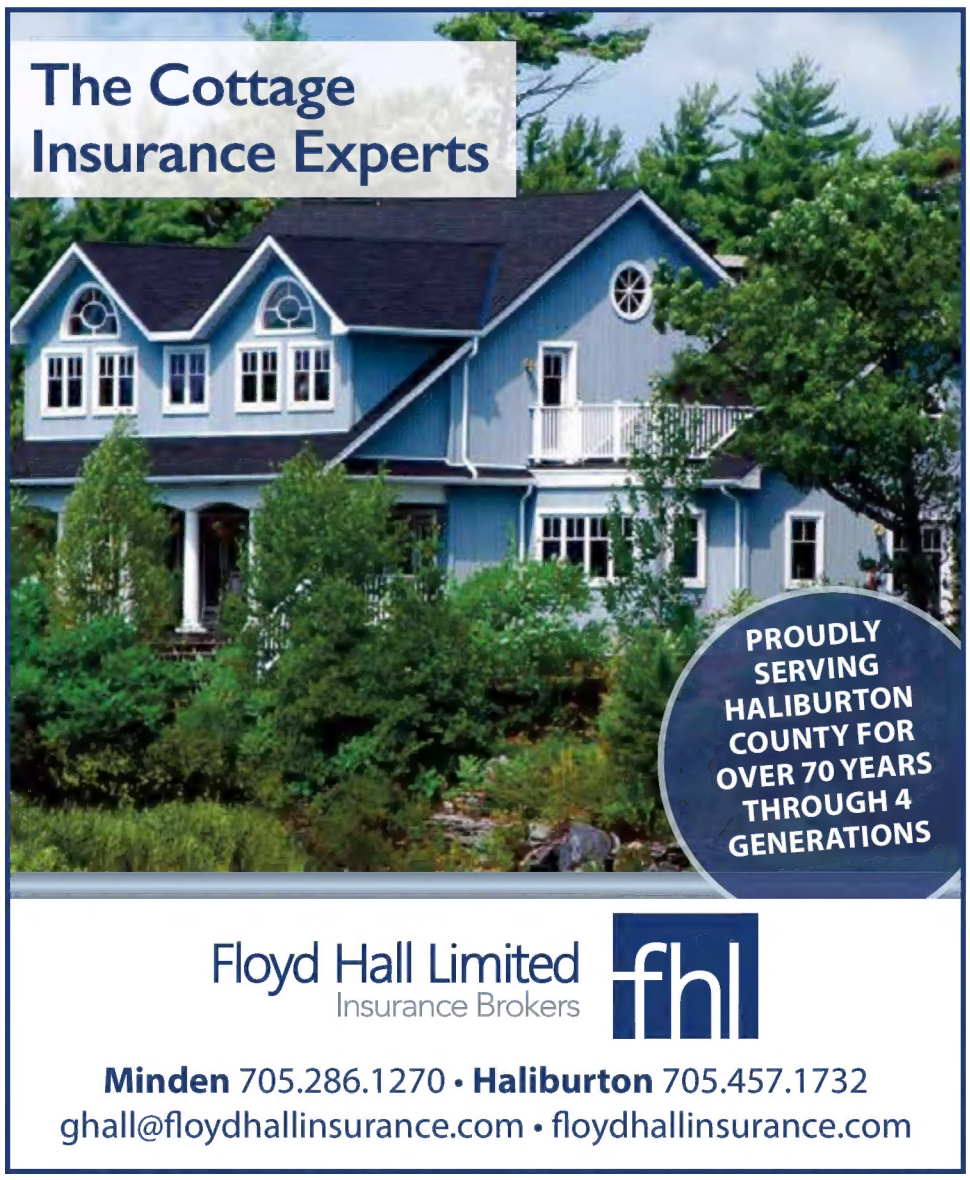
The venture has given Gilooly some vital hands-on experience. She's learning how to manage people, with her friends volunteering their time to help during events, where they split tips. She's also getting a taste for budgeting, marketing, customer service and inventory management.

She hopes to keep busy through summer, saying her stand is available for bookings. People can contact: the.lemon.bar.kg@gmail.com. Gilooly said she plans to save her earnings for her post-secondary education. She wants to get into anesthesiology one day.

"I've always wanted to do something in the medical field. I know it takes a long time to become a surgeon, so I'm looking into becoming an anesthesiologist assistant or something, just to cut down on the school time," Gilooly said.

Racing will still be a priority – she is currently the second-ranked racer in Ontario in her age and race category. Now fully healed from her torn posterior cruciate ligament, Gilooly said her goal is to finish first overall. The season runs until late October.

"I want that champions jacket at the end of the year. My brother has one and I want to get one for myself," Gilooly said.



It's nicer here
Hi

Highlander grads

Top: The graduating class jokes around at the start of the ceremony. Bottom: Nixon Ecclestone receives an award from principal Lauren Alleway. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

2026
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Wildcats roar one last time

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Proud parents, friends, and extended family gathered at Archie Stouffer Elementary School on June 19 to hear the class of '26 roar one last time.

The evening was filled with humour, nostalgia, and some words of wisdom as 40 graduates said goodbye to their teachers and prepare for the next step in their young lives.

Kelson Bagshaw took the stage as the Grade 8 valedictorian and delivered a heartfelt send-off to the graduating class.

With a little dose of self-deprecation, Bagshaw joked about his unlikely path to the podium, where he stood in front of a packed gymnasium.

"One year ago, I had no idea what a valedictorian was or how to pronounce it, yet here I am this evening," the student said. "By looking at my friends here tonight, we've definitely increased our aura."

Looking back on his time at Archie Stouffer, Bagshaw spoke about how the graduating class once walked into the school with "backpacks bigger than we were" and became a tight-knit group of "hardworking, loud, fun, chatty individuals with strong personalities" who were proud to call themselves wildcats.

The young man recounted countless recesses packed with football, four-square, and mini-sticks, as well as memorable field trips to a Toronto Blue Jays game, Medieval Times, and an overnight stay at Camp Muskoka.

Other highlights included the girls' volleyball team beating the boys twice and a holiday concert mishap.

"We definitely rocked the Christmas concert, or so I'm told, as I don't remember much as I'm still recovering from the concussion," Bagshaw joked. "Thanks, friends."

The valedictorian expressed gratitude toward the teachers who consistently went above and beyond, while admitting, "I'm sure we've pushed you to your [limits], or at least I know I have!"

As the grads prepare to transition from wildcats to hawks, Bagshaw left his peers with some advice for high school: sign up for clubs, work hard, and "stay away from the plane!

"Stand your ground and stand up for others," Bagshaw told his classmates. "These next four years will go fast, so make the best of them."

Before stepping from the stage, the valedictorian closed the chapter on their elementary school years with a final rally cry.

"So for one last time, wildcats roar!"

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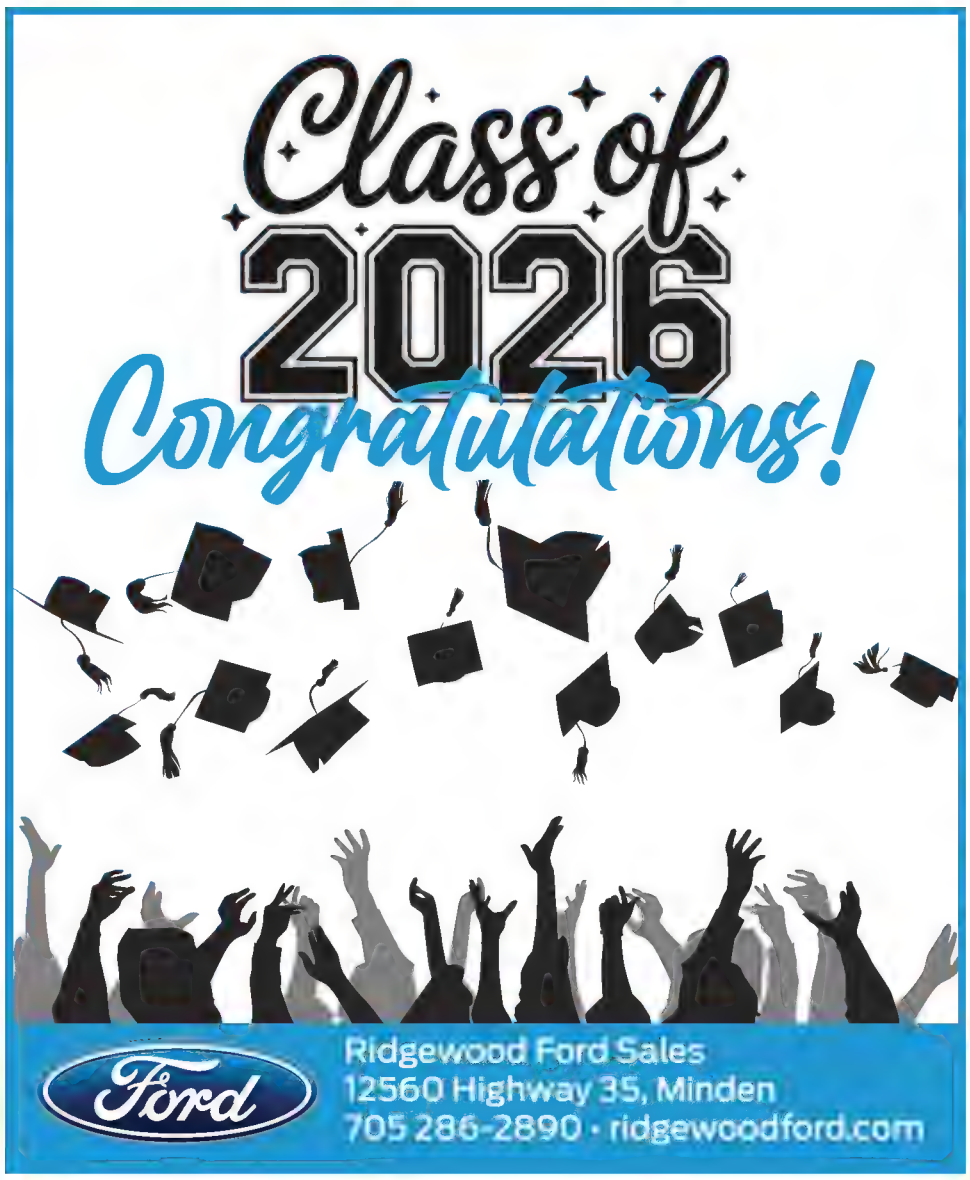
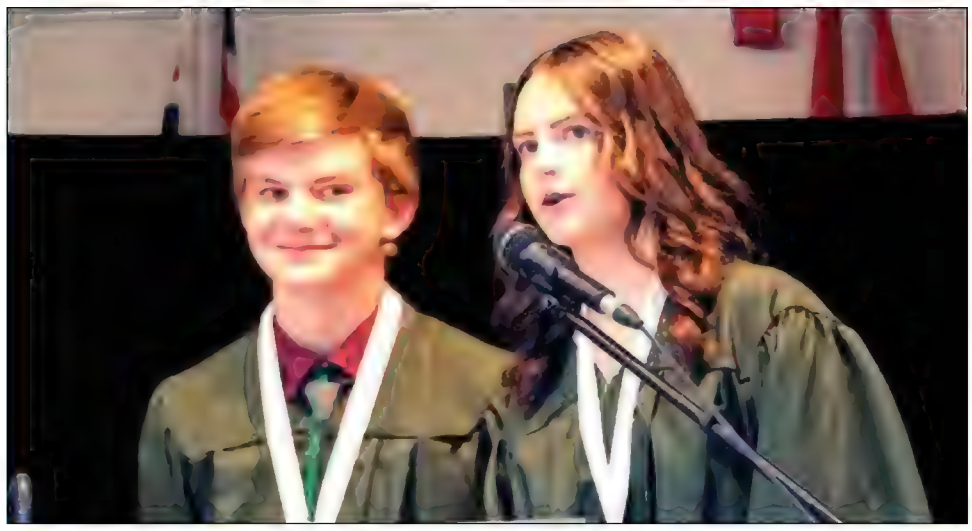
Highlander grads





Top: Principal Mike Gervais with principal's award recipient, Morgan McKnight. Bottom: Valedictorians, Emmett Wimperly and McKnight. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Just showing up

By Lisa Gervais

If Travis Kelce had not publicly shared on his podcast that he tried to give Taylor Swift a friendship bracelet with his phone number on it at her Kansas City concert – the two would not be married today.

Wilberforce Elementary School principal Mike Gervais told the graduating class last Wednesday (June 24) that 90 per cent of success – like Kelce did - is just showing up. "Because the coolest things in life happen when you just show up. Think about that."

He said when the eight grads first came to the school for Grade 4, they were small and wide-eyed but are now taller and wiser. He said they had survived the rollercoaster of elementary school, making staff laugh, proud, and a few students causing them to consider early retirement. However, he had nothing but praise for the graduates.

Valedictorians, Morgan McKnight and Emmett Wimperly, thanked teachers. They reminisced about a great school trip to Toronto to see a Blue Jays game. They noted that being such a small class allowed them to get close, and teachers and staff to know the students well.

They borrowed a phrase from teacher Jacob Findeis who often says, "it's okay not to know, but it's not okay not to ask'."

Highlands East mayor Dave Burton told grads they could accomplish anything with hard work and determination.

And, retiring school board trustee, Gary Brohman, noted it takes a community to get graduates to the podium.

He said their pending journey to high school starts with hard work, with his trademark advice: "go to class, go to class, go to class." He said high school would be the best years of their lives.

The grad also marked the retirement of long-time secretary Sandy MacDonald, and the departure of teacher Rachel Manol.

MacDonald said, "this has been the best school that I've ever worked in. I came here, and it is the diamond in the rough, and it is the families, and the community, and the students. I am going to miss all of that so much."

She wished the grads well, and said she looked forward to hearing about their journeys into the future.

Graduates: Ameira Burke-Campbell; Clayton Cline; Isabella Lamb; Morgan McKnight; Phoenix Oldfield; Ryan Downey; Conner Wiebe and Emmett Wimperly.

Highlander grads

Top: Kinley Cox tears up as she receives an award presented by teacher Parker Smolen. Bottom: Students take to their seats for the start of the ceremony. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

Farewell to JDH class of '26

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Families, friends, and staff gathered to celebrate the J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School class of 2026 last Tuesday (June 23), with dual valedictorians sharing the stage to reflect on their unique five-year journey.

Aley Jones and Linus Gervais opened their speech to a packed gymnasium by looking back on their transition to middle school at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced them to miss out on traditional "link day" orientations.

"Although that was less than optimal, it taught us to be resilient and to problem-solve while we found our way around our new school," Gervais said. "That fear of the big, daunting middle school went away quickly because the staff made us feel welcomed and at home."

The duo joked about how far they had come since Grade 4, when their biggest academic milestone was simply remembering their Google passwords.

"Now we are graduating from JDH," Gervais said. "That is a big upgrade."

From playing sports to school clubs, the graduates celebrated the tight-knit community they built. Jones highlighted memorable field trips to Canada's Wonderland, the Toronto Zoo, and a Blue Jays game, alongside an unforgettable Grade 6 trip to Camp Muskoka, where she broke a leg.

"That trip will definitely be unforgettable!" Jones joked.

Gervais highlighted the unique advantages of growing up in Haliburton, with the school's vast backyard where students spent years playing sports and manhunt.

"Not many schools have a backyard like we do," he told the crowd.

The graduates took some time to express gratitude to their parents and teachers. Jones joked that parents deserved diplomas for surviving years of middle school mood swings. Staff from both the French immersion and English streams were recognized for keeping learning engaging and ensuring that every student felt included.

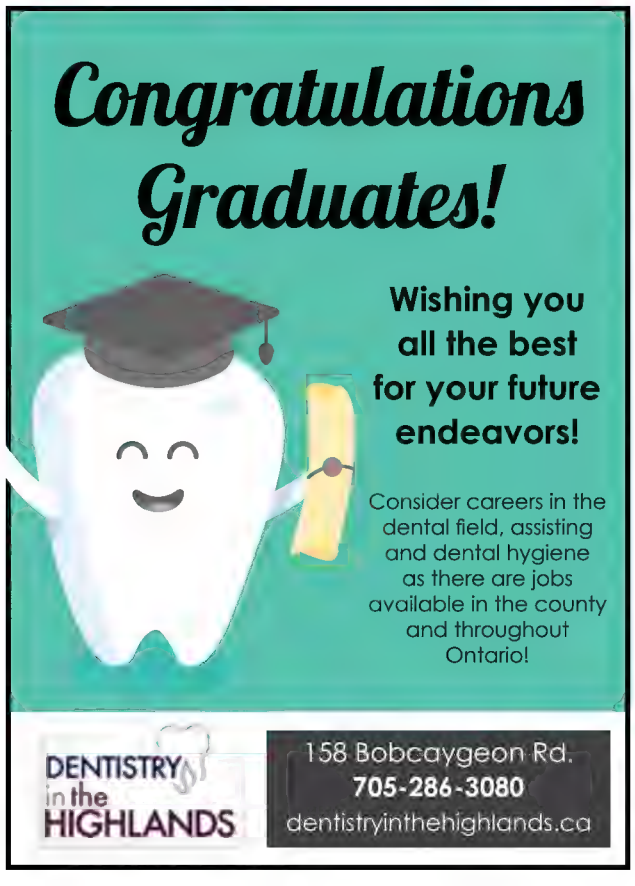
As the class of '26 set their sights on Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Gervais encouraged his classmates to remain authentic and embrace new opportunities like woodworking, guitar, and pottery.

"Be yourself," he said. "Your best friendships are formed from truths, not lies, and if your goal is to be 'cool' then you should think again."

Lastly, the valedictorians reminded their classmates that mistakes are the greatest motivator for growth.

"Although our paths may go different ways, we are all Jags, and that will always be our bond."

Highlander grads



Little Cougars roar

Cardiff Elementary School held its 2026 graduation last Monday (June 22) afternoon. The little ones donned caps and gowns and proudly received their certificates in front of equally stoked parents and grandparents. The school serves Junior Kindergarten through Grade 3, with grads off to Wilberforce Elementary School in the fall. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Graduates, left to right: Skylar, Gavin, Hannah, Elaina, Korbyn, Sabrina, and Claire. *Submitted.*

Grade 3 love

Stuart Baker Elementary School ended its school year as it always does: with the traditional clap-out. This one was held last Thursday (June 25). Parents and grandparents gathered on the school grounds to give the Grade 3s some love.

Stuart Baker ES staff and students celebrate end-of-year. Karen Lytle, Mary Jane Brennan (at the front) and Adrienne Brown (at the back of the line). *Photo by Laurie Johnson.*

Highlander grads

Top: Trustee Gary Brohman addresses the graduates. Bottom left: Valedictorian, Brandee Fortin, gives her speech. Bottom right: Teacher Lori Sargent hands out the Grade 12 diplomas. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

'Perseverance' the word

By Lisa Gervais

Trustee Gary Brohman said he has attended countless graduations over the years, but always finds the one for Alternate Education (Alt Ed) special.

"I use the word perseverance," he told this year's graduating class of 22 students.

As a young teacher coming to Haliburton, Brohman said he was mentored by education giant, J.D. Hodgson, who told him every child learned at a different pace, and different time, so "don't be too hard on them."

In the case of adult ed, the gowned students chose an alternative education path that would lead them to the greatest success - and last Wednesday (June 25) marked the milestone with a celebration at McKeck's in Haliburton.

Brohman urged grads to celebrate their victories, especially their graduation.

He went on to honour administrative head, Lori Sargent, who is retiring, saying, "she's as good as it gets." She will be replaced by Hal High vice principal Martin Gage.

Principal Katie Ferguson said the grads should be proud of themselves.

"What you've accomplished takes heart, focus and belief in your own potential." She said the crop was resilient, not giving up when life threw obstacles in their way. "You don't give up. You adapted. You showed up and you pushed through. You belong here. You are in this moment."

Ferguson added regardless of what they do next, the world needed "their grit, unique perspectives and unstoppable spirits."

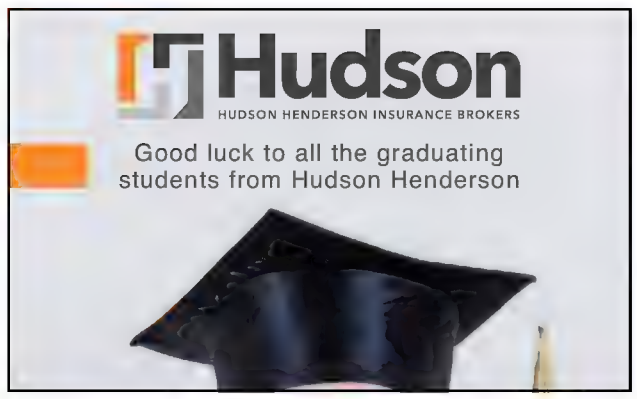
Brandee Fortin gave the graduate address, commenting on how she was finishing high school at the age of 45. She said learning had no age limit, and that it is never too late to keep going, growing, and reaching goals. She is now headed towards more education and then a personal support worker (PSW) career.

She told grads to keep believing in themselves and keep moving forward - even when life takes longer than expected.

Sargent said while a small graduating class locally, the School of Alternate Education in TLDSB had more than 150 graduates, with its online virtual program having another 100 graduates.

She added, "I know what we do is sometimes a mystery to our community. We have a variety of options for students. For example, Haliburton County Huskies hockey players attended our centre taking academic courses so they could get to their practices and work around their away games. We have co-op (when students have part-time and full-time jobs they can keep getting paid and count their hours), and apprenticeship programs. We offer online and in-class courses, and we administer the Jr. and Sr. PLAR program (mature credit/equivalencies/assessments) for those turning 18 and older."

Graduates: Kaeden Barnett; Chanel Bowman; Braxton Cooper; Gregory Daniel; Hailey Davison; Chase Del Colombo; Brandee Fortin; Chloe Forggett; Jordyn Greer; Emma Hewitt; Hannah Kehoe; Cody Keller; Kayla MacDonald; Brock Mackie; Matthias Malette; Eric Mallett; Charles Mulley; Clare Phippen; Dominic Smith; Jazmin Smith; Matthew Tucker and Evan Wheeler.



Highlander grads

Top left: Congratulations to the graduating class of 2026. Bottom left: Lilly Casey crosses the stage June 25 as part of Hal High's graduating class of 2026. Bottom centre: A student hugs Hal High principal Jenn Mills. Top right: Ben McMahon and vice principal Martin Gage share a moment. Second right: Freyja Neimann-Rowe flashes a smile. Third right: Jenn Mills shares a moment on stage with her nephew, Jace Mills. Bottom right: Vice principal Martin Gage delivered a speech on behalf of TLDSB trustee Gary Brohman. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Hal High class has left lasting legacy

By Mike Baker

Hal High principal Jennifer Mills told the school's class of 2026 to go out and make a difference in the world following their graduation last Thursday (June 25), saying "there is a superhero in all of us, we just need the courage to put on the cape."

The gymnasium at the local high school was packed to the rafters, with teachers, family and friends celebrating this year's 109 graduates.

"When we think of superheroes, we often think of flawless figures who have exceptional powers and abilities. But true greatness isn't something you are suddenly handed, it is something you build," Mills said. "And that cape? It doesn't drop from the sky. You all have been weaving your cape together throughout the years."

The principal said while many will have bright patches showcasing their success and victories, there are also weathered parts that represent mistakes.

"Do not hide these or wish them away. Keep them on that cape – they show you that you can do hard things… these experiences are what make you stronger. They represent resilience," Mills said.

"High school may be over, but your journey is just beginning. The world is waiting. Take a deep breath, make good choices and put on your cape," she added.

Teacher Justin Collins served as the master of ceremonies with speeches from Jennifer Clarke, superintendent with Trillium Lakelands District School Board, Tanya Boisvert, chair of the school council, and vice principal Martin Gage, on behalf of trustee Gary Brohman, who missed only his second Hal High graduation.

Carrying a cardboard cutout of Brohman, Gage said, "Gary is telling you that your diploma is your passport and no one can take it away from you. And remember, once a Hawk, always a Hawk."

Thirty-four of the graduates made the honour roll, including valedictorian Trevin Bain-Gross. To be eligible, students had to maintain an average of 80 per cent or higher in their top six senior courses taken in their graduating year.

There were 143 awards handed out, with Jordanna Jennings and Ella Gervais each scooping seven, Aurora Wesley getting six and Hazel Jones and Ben McMahon winning four each.

After teaching all the graduates in Grade 9 English, Collins said he knew right away there was something special about the class of 2026.

"Over the last four years, there's been one thing I've learned about this graduating class. It's not that they've faced the tests, they've done that. It's not that they won championships, they've done that too. They haven't just painted the paintings, fixed the cars or baked the cakes – they have left a lasting legacy on this building," Collins said.

"This class is a group of difference-makers… I challenge you now to find ways of continuing to leave an impact wherever you go. Do big things, the way you've done them here for the last four years," he added.

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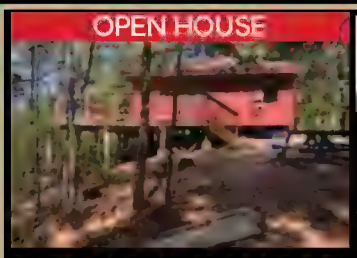
- Motor-Restricted Lake, Peace & Quiet!

OPEN HOUSE

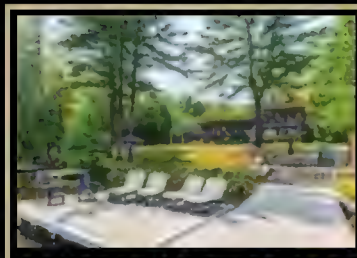


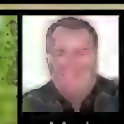
Andy Campbell* (705) 854-0292

Burdock Lake $499,000
- 2 Bedroom, 3 Season Cottage
- Very Neat with Many Upgrades
- OPEN HOUSE: Thurs, Jul 2 @ 11am-1pm

Gloria Carnochan* & Breann Budel* (705) 754-1932

West Guilford Gem $599,500
- Renovated 3-bed home, Open-concept
- Detch'd heated garage + fenced kennel
- Walk to beach, trails & local shops



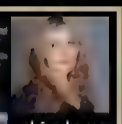


Mark Dennys* (705) 457-0473

SOYERS LAKE - $3,995,000
- Luxury 4 Season, 4 Bdrm, 4 Bath
- 300ft Sandy Waterfront, 5 Lk Chain
- Appx 4000 SqFt, Lk Views Throughout

Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

Kinmount Home $929,000
- 2019 Custom Home on 2.21 Acres
- Pool, Hot Tub, Firepit & Deck, Trail Access
- 5-Car Garage + Covered Carport



Lindsay Elder* (705) 457-5878

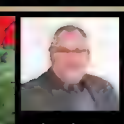
Your Dream Home Awaits!
- Now is the perfect time to get your home or cottage on the market!
- Call me for a market evaluation!

NEW LISTING

Melanie Maxwell-Hevesi** & Andrea Wilson** (705) 854-1000

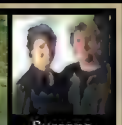
Irondale River Retreat $625,000
- 3-Bed Cottage On 9.1 Scenic Acres
- 2,000+ft Waterfront, Gazebo & Deck
- Clear Water & Stunning Sunsets

NEW LISTING



Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

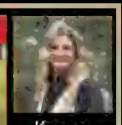
Haliburton Lake $849,000
- 3 Bed, 2 Bath, 140' Sandy Shore
- Bunkie, Generator, Rare Boathouse
- Big Lake Views On Premier Lake



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

Miskwabi Lake – $1,149,000
- Spectacular Point Lot with 330' frontage
- 4 Season, 3 Br + Den. 2-Lake Chain
- Easy Year Round Access, Garage

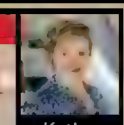
OPEN HOUSE



Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

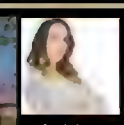
Long Lake Gem! $499,000
- Beautifully renovated top to bottom
- 3 bd, 1 bth, large deck, fully furnished
- OPEN HOUSE: Sat, July 4 @ 12pm-2pm

OPEN HOUSE



Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

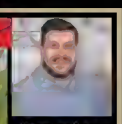
In-Town Minden Home $399,900
- Cozy 3 Bed, 2 Bath Downtown Home
- Walking distance to all town amenities
- OPEN HOUSE: Sun, Jul 5 @ 11am-1pm



Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

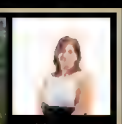
Minden Log Home $739,000
- 2024 Log Home, 3,500+ Sq. Ft.
- 2 Living Spaces, Rental Income Potential
- Covered Wraparound Deck

SOLD



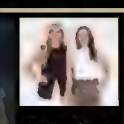
Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

Gull River Retreat
- Renovated 3 Bedroom Bungalow
- Direct Boat Access to Gull Lake
- New Septic, Dock & Guest Bunkie



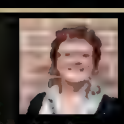
Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Home on 6+ Acres $699,000
- 4 Beds, 2 Baths, 6+ Acres, Built in 2019
- 40x30 Garage with Hydro, Private Trails
- W/O Lower Level, Walk to Furnace Falls



Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841 Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

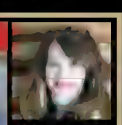
Soyers Lake $1,499,900
- 4 Beds/2.5 Baths, 3000+ SqFt, 3 Acres
- Grand 2-Storey Great Rm, Southern Exp
- 4-Season Sunrm, In-Floor Heating, A/C



Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Fortescue Lake Gem $524,900
- 4 BR Cottage + Spacious Bunkie
- Sand Shoreline, Deck & Lake Views
- Furnished & Move-In Ready, Level Lot

NEW LISTING



Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

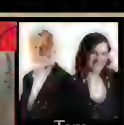
Beech Lake Farm $1,875,000
- 100+ Acres, Renovated Brick Home
- 50x100 Barn, 8 Fenced Pastures
- 2,400+ Ft Beech Lake Frontage

SOLD

Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

Minden Condo
- Primary Bdrm w/3 pc Ens & W/I Closet
- Den/Office, 2 Pc Bath, In-Suite Laundry
- Large Deck, Underground Parking

NEW PRICE



Tom Wilkinson** (705) 457-6839 Lindsay Wilkinson* (705) 854-1454

Salerno Lake $648,000
- 3 Beds, 2 Baths, 768SF, 4.81 Acres
- Stunning Private Waterfall
- Additional Space For Guests

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BENNINGTON 21 SL

$75,695 *

Yamaha F115, SPS Triple toon, hydraulic steering, Blackout Package, Ski Bar Echomap

YAMAHA WAVE RUNNERS

STARTING AT **$14,599 ***

Rebates up to $600 off **OR** Interest Rate special of 5.99% up to 72 Months

MONTEREY M20

$86,495 *

MerCruiser 4.5 250 hp, Seadek throughout, Bimini Top, Tonneau Cover, Depth Sounder

BENNINGTON 188 SL

$45,995 *

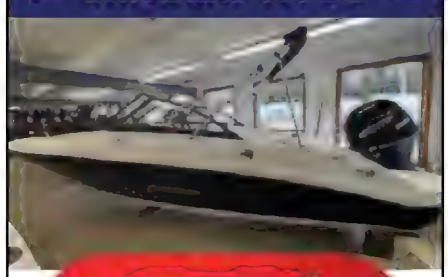
Yamaha T60 Highthrust, 25" Pontoons, 10' Bimini Top, Mooring Cover

STINGRAY 172 SC 2025

$45,995 *

Yamaha F90, Ski Pole, Bimini Top, Tonneau Cover

STINGRAY 191 DC



$53,795 *

Yamaha VF115 SHO, Ski pole, Bimini top, Tilt Steering, Battery Switch

MONTEREY M22

NEW PRICE **$89,995 ***

Mercruiser 4.5 250Hp, Tonneau & Bow cover, Bimini top, Seadek Throughout

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Supporters, volunteers, and partners gathered at SIRCH in Haliburton village to mark a major milestone. *Photo by Adam Frisk*

SIRCH has 100,000 reasons to celebrate

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Local non-profit SIRCH Community Services marked a major milestone on Monday (June 29), as its kitchen program reached 100,000 meals prepared and served to the community.

The community kitchen program in Haliburton village, which serves people facing food insecurity, individuals experiencing housing instability, financial difficulties, isolation, health issues and other circumstances, has seen demand skyrocket in recent years.

"In 2019 we were making about 300 meals a month," said Gena Robertson, founding executive director of SIRCH.

"Then COVID hit and the need grew dramatically... We didn't have the staff or the funding to meet that need alone."

Robertson credited the achievement to a massive wave of grassroots support, noting that volunteers, donors, local businesses, and community partners all stepped forward to fill the gap.

Today, the program prepares 1,750 meals every month. The food is distributed through a collaborative network of 14 local community organizations.

Supporters, volunteers, and partners gathered at the bistro this week to reflect on the milestone and speak about the ongoing importance of supporting vulnerable neighbours with dignity and compassion.

Highlander events

Serving an aging community

MP Jamie Schmale and MPP Laurie Scott hosted a seniors seminar at the Haliburton Legion last Wednesday (June 24). Local non-profit and government organizations were on-hand to provide information about the services they offer to the aging community.

Right: Residents visit local organizations to get information on services they provide. Left: MPP Laurie Scott provides opening remarks at the start of the senior seminar.
Photos by Adam Frisk.

NEW TO YOU
COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Shop mutiple yard sales all in one spot!
Saturday, July 4, 2026

8 AM to 1 PM
Parking lot of A.J. LaRue Arena
728 Mountain Street, Haliburton

Shoppers: park on Highland Street, Maple Avenue, or a free municipal parking lot on Highland Street, York Street, Park Street

Visit our satellite locations on Saturday, July 4, 2026:
In-store sales at:
- 10 AM - 2 PM: Haliburton 4Cs Lily Ann Thrift Store, 33 York St, Haliburton
- 10 AM - 5 PM: Thrift Warehouse, 128 Mallard Road, Haliburton

Gently-used book sales at:
- 10 AM - 2 PM: Dysart Branch Haliburton County Public Library, 78 Maple Avenue, Haliburton (hosted by Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library
- 10 AM - 5 PM: Haliburton Highlands Museum, 66 Museum Rd, Haliburton

Municipality of Dysart et al
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- Pontoon seat covers
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- High quality Sunbrella fabric
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Highlander events

49 years and counting

As is tradition, YMCA Wanakita welcomed the public to its property on Koshlong Lake Road on Sunday (June 28) for its 49th annual community open house and strawberry social. Hundreds of people came out for an afternoon of swimming, kayaking and a host of other free, fun activities, said Wanakita's Aisling Higgins. The party continued into the evening with a grand opening of the new Wayne Perkins Leadership Centre. The $2.6 million facility is named in honour of the man who spearheaded Wanakita's student counsellor program when he was camp director in the 1970s. The 4,080 sq. ft. space includes a meeting area and Indigenous learning library. *(Mike Baker)*

Left: Pam Perkins, wife of the late Wayne Perkins, cuts the ribbon to officially open the new Wayne Perkins Leadership Centre. Right: YMCA Wanakita CEO Manny Figueiredo and board chair Paul Gibel at Sunday's unveiling. *Photos submitted.*

Highlander events

Municipality of Dysart et al
In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001

Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 22, 2026, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 45100 0000; 1701 - 1741 WIGAMOG RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39252-0140 (LT); PT LT 2-3 CON 6 DYSART PT 1, 2, 19R8110; T/W H243561 & H127169; T/W H263271; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-38

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $841,000

Minimum tender amount: $110,337.04

2. Roll No. 46 24 011 000 20200 0000; 1025 MEADOWVIEW RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0071 (LT); PT LT 14 CON 7 DYSART AS IN H86046; S/T H32659; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-06

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $293,000

Minimum tender amount: $20,176.08

~~3. Roll No. 46 24 013 000 13800 0000; 1068 HURRICANE LAKE DR., HALIBURTON; PIN 39185-0031 (LT); PT LT 6 CON 13 DYSART PT 3 19R904 EXCEPT PT 1 19R1162; T/W H113633 EXCEPT THE EASEMENT THEREIN RE PT 2 19R1162; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-20~~

~~According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $128,000~~

~~**Minimum tender amount: $13,907.90**~~

4. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 35300 0000; DYSART ET AL; PIN 39141-0342 (LT); PT LT 8 CON 3 GUILFORD AS IN H127005; UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE; File No. 25-35

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $82,000

Minimum tender amount: $11,854.00

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act

are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/ tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale. Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector

The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart, Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde

135 Maple Avenue
P.O. Box 389
Haliburton, ON, K0M1S0
(705) 457-1740 Ext 639
cbliedung@dysartetal.ca | www.dysartetal.ca

Going back in time

Heritage Day is the Dorset Museum's flagship event of the year. This year, it was held on Saturday (June 27) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The museum officially opened July 1, 2001. It features exhibits of early pioneer life, local settlers, traditional logging practices and historic information pertaining to pioneer settlement of the Dorset area. From July until Thanksgiving, the museum is open Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Top: Phil Ward and Pete Hitchcock re-enacted the Muskoka Militia. Middle: Sandy MacKay checks out a paddle made by Simon McNamee. Bottom: Rosemary Featherstone and Jane Audet look at one of the museum displays. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Highlander events

Come fly with me

The Stanhope Municipal Airport advisory committee hosted some fly-in fun at the airport Saturday (June 27) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Folks enjoyed a casual barbecue by members of the committee with hamburgers and hot dogs, purchased airport hats, T-shirts and stickers, and of course, watched the planes. Aircraft rides by Near North Aviation were available, with payment on-site on a first-come, first-served basis.

Top: A plane flies low overhead. Middle: David and Heather Powell with a Teal seaplane. Bottom: Joseph Jeffrey posed for a photo with just about every plane he saw.
Photos by Lisa Gervais.

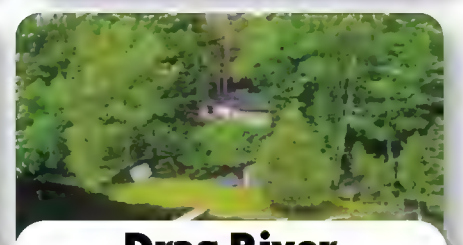
Gull Lake
$2,300,000
- 4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms
- 3 Levels of Living Space
- 4 Areas to Enjoy and Relax in
- Insulated and Heated Double Garage

Horseshoe Lake
New Price! $870,000
- 3 Bedrooms + Bonus Room
- 2 Living Spaces + 2 Bathrooms
- Insulated and Heated Double Garage
- 5.82 Acres of Land

Robin's Nest
$349,900
- 770 sqft of Commercial / Retail Space
- 484 sqft One Bedroom Apartment
- Municipal Parking Beside the Building
- Invest In Minden!!

Home in Minden
$399,000
- 2 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
- Spacious Living, Dining and Primary
- Located in the heart of Minden
- Great views of Gull River

Gull Lake
$850,000
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 2 Living Spaces
- Lots of Outdoor Living Spaces
- New Septic in Spring 2026
- Located at the mouth of Deep Bay



Drag River
$649,999
- 2 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom
- Bunkie for overflow
- Yard at the waterfront to play on
- 1.78 Acres with bush at the back

for sale

Lots of Lots!!

#1 3.53 Acres at the corner of Silverwood Road and Porky's Road. Municipal Roads.

#2 1.25 Acres at 2875 County Road 21. Driveway Installed. $199,000.

#3 Maple Lake Back Lot at the corner of Providence and Fader Drive. .602 of an acre. $95,000.

#4 5.4 Acres of Bush Lot at the south end of Gelert Road just north of County Road 121. $165,000.

#5 1164 Ravine Road 1.55 Acres with entrance, Hydro on site and shed. $150,000

#6 Bushwolf Lake Road 85' x 176' building lot near the corner of Sir Sams Road. $98,900

Bob Lake
$949,999
- 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom
- Long Lake Views
- LAUNCH YOUR BOAT from the property
- Garage and Outbuildings

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Highlander events

ADVERTORIAL

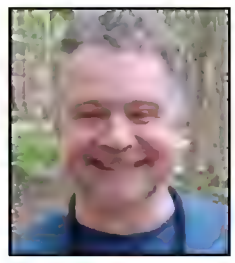
In natural gardening, density is the point

The plants beside my driveway are so dense, even Rufus, my dog, refuses to go into them.

I didn't plant any of these. They just happened. There are three types of goldenrod, a red elderberry, some thistles, hawkweed, a couple of ash saplings, what looks like butternut, evening primrose, two kinds of grasses, raspberry, and a bunch of other things I can't identify.

This isn't the design I would choose for a client. Some of these plants I'd consider weeds. You could even say it's a bit messy.

But it's dense – because that's how nature is. There's no bare ground, which is why Rufus stands on the edge looking in and hoping I'll fetch his orange ball.



By Simon Payn

How nature plants

I've just finished my spring landscape installations – shorelines, septics, lawn conversions, woodland glades. And every one of them is planted densely – one plant every 12 inches.

One or two installations already look dense because clients opted for almost fully grown plants.

One bed I installed is already 75% covered with warm-season grasses and flowering perennials. A gardening neighbour commented on the density: you'll have lots of extra plants to divide and share.

I'm not so sure. I want to keep the ground covered to cut down on maintenance. There won't be plants to give away if I don't want space for weeds to grow.

> If you plant in a sea of mulch, you're not gardening like nature does, so you're not getting the benefits of an ecological approach.

Every plant an island

Municipal and corporate garden beds are now installed across the county. They look neat and will have red, blue and purple flowers that brighten up our towns.

Part of that neatness is because each plant is spaced far apart from the other. In between is mulch. It looks clean and under control.

As long as we keep the mulch weeded, all will be fine.

But it's not how nature does it. In nature, plants are their own mulch.

You can buy native plants and garden this way, if you don't mind the maintenance that open ground creates.

I use native plants because they have co-evolved with the rest of nature here. They have formed relationships with other plants and animals which are mutually beneficial.

But if you plant native species in a sea of mulch, each an island, you're not gardening like nature does, so you're not getting the benefits of an ecological approach.

It's better than using non-natives and invasive species, but it's like installing a new kitchen and getting your food takeout.

Riot of life

Lucas House is my trial garden in Haliburton, next to the post office. I test things out there and hope Haliburton's deer don't eat all the flowers. They've already plucked the buds off the coreopsis.

Part of the garden has come into its own this spring. To the right of the main path are carpets of silverweed, with its yellow flowers and metallic leaves, and wild strawberries, where berries are available for birds and for us. The little bluestem grass is growing now the temperatures are warmer, asters are poking tall, pearly everlasting is spreading like a pale green lace, and mountain mint is growing through the grasses and about to burst into life with white flowers insects adore.

I need to tread carefully when I walk through the landscape.

So does Rufus.

Simon Payn owns Grounded, which designs, installs and cares for ecological gardens and shorelines in Haliburton County. See groundedgardens.ca.

Getting the lead out

The Minden Kinsmen Club presented its annual Minden truck pull and show and shine Saturday (June 27). In addition to trucks trying to pull weight; the vintages and classic cars were back for prizes, and this year also featured a cornhole tournament. There was also food, refreshments and a beer tent.

Top: A large crowd gathered for the truck pull, which this year was in memory of Dan Douglas. Middle: The big boys. Bottom: Kate Moore and Dylan Brinks had a giveaway for a new BBQ. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

What's on

Anne with an 'E'

Highlands Summer Festival is presenting *Anne of Green Gables* the musical at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion until July 8. These scenes are from Sunday night's (June 28) dress rehearsal. Opening night was July 1, with the audience following the story of the imaginative Anne Shirley as she captures the hearts and minds of her newfound family and neighbours in the small farming community of Avonlea with her pluck and tenacity. The production features 24 local talent on-stage. For show times and tickets, go to https://www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca/ *(Lisa Gervais) Photo submitted by Wendy Evenden.*

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Summer is here! Check out the programs that the SG Nesbitt Arena has going on this summer either online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the Administration Desk.

BID OPPORTUNITY

The Township of Minden Hills currently has the following tenders available:

• RFT No. CSD 26-01 Backup Generator for S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.
Closing date: July 20, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

• RFP No. RDS 26-003 Minden Sidewalk Improvements
Closing date: July 10, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

See Bid Opportunities on our website for more information.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• July 23 – Regular Council Meeting
• August 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• Celebrate Canada Day at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Activities taking place from 10 am – 2 pm: Air Bounce Inflatables, FREE ice cream sponsored by Kawartha Dairy from 12-1 pm (while supplies last), Pockets the Clown facepainting, and children's games and activities. New this year is "Conundrum" – an interactive musical instrument created by visual artist David Hynes. It is made by stretching and lacing cowhide/rawhide over the hull of a 16-foot cedar-strip canoe, transforming the boat into a massive, multi-player kettle drum.

• *The 2026 Members' Exhibition of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands* will be on display until July 18.

• *Museum of Her*, a new exhibition by artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery (Kirkwood Room) until July 18.

• *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg*, on loan from The MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora, was created in partnership between MUSE, Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation, and the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba. The exhibit will be on display at the MHCC until August 29.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm for tours and self-guided activities! Stop by Fridays at 11 am for the Toddler Discovery Zone, and Saturdays at 11 am for Hands-On activities! All are welcome.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

Safely dispose of your household hazardous waste July 25 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena. Please ensure you have your waste disposal card. Residents can attend any hazardous waste event in the County. For a full list of events happening within the County, visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste.

CANADA DAY

The following Township of Minden Hills offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 to celebrate Canada Day.

• Municipal Administration Office (7 Milne St.)
• Fire Hall Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35)

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre and S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena will be open with a variety of activities. All waste disposal sites will operate on regular hours.

Our offices and facilities will resume regular hours on Thursday, July 2, 2026.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 · Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 · Fax: 705-286-4917
@Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills @Township_MindenHills

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Office and clubroom closed
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 5-9 p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Friday** with full menu and daily special including liver lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 9:30 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: every other Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 10 a.m. to noon, Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. July 6, 13, 20 and 27, darts at 7 p.m.; Mexican train dominos at 7 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. July 7, executive meeting at 7 p.m.; July 14, general meeting at 7 p.m.; July 21 and 28 exercise club at 1 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 darts at 2 p.m.; ladies auxiliary quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m. July 1 and 8 cribbage at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 horseshoes at 7 p.m.; July 2 and 16 painting with Luann at 10 a.m.; July 9 and 23 HHHS social recreation at 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. July 3, 17 and 31 wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m.; July 10 fish and chips from 5 to 8 p.m.; July 24 cannelloni dinner and live music from 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. July 4, Uncle Bob's rock bass kids fishing derby, weigh in is 1 to 3 p.m.; July 25, 100th celebration at noon, with activities all day; July 4, 11, 18 and 25 meat draw at 3 p.m.
Sunday: closed, special events only. July 12, ladies auxiliary breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m.

Royal Canadian Legion – Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: Sunday and Monday 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first **Sunday** of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second **Sunday** of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard every **Thursday** from 7 to 9 p.m.
Music and jam session ever second **Saturday** of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

EVENTS

Highlands Summer Festival kicks off its 2026 season with Anne of Green Gables – The Musical. There will be nine shows at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion until July 8. Recommended for ages 7 and up. Tickets are $40, available online at tickets.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca/product/anne-of-green-gables.

July 2, 8 to 8:45 p.m. Wolf Howl hosted by Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre. Come out for a short presentation about wolves before staff attempt to communicate with them through howling. Doors open at the seminar building at base camp at 1095 Redkenn Rd at 7:30 p.m. Arrive early to save a seat. Taking place every Thursday night in July and August. By donation.

July 4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Haliburton and District Lions Club is hosting a walk for dog guides community garage sale in the A.J. LaRue parking lot. Remember to bring your pop tabs for puppies. There will be books, plants and vintage items.

July 4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dysart et al township is hosting its annual New to You community yard sale in the A.J. LaRue parking lot. This event takes place rain or shine. Come out to find some sweet deals.

July 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library is hosting a summer book sale at the Haliburton branch. All sales are by donation with proceeds directly benefitting the library system.

July 7, 7 p.m. Do you love to garden? Join the Minden and District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre (55 Parkside Dr.). You will learn how to do 'winter sowing' of seeds from guest speaker Sylvia Strobl. Monthly society meeting to follow. New members welcome.

July 15, 10:30 a.m. Stop by the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost for a game of Scrabble. Extra points for words associated with the outpost and its history.

July 18, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The annual Art on the Dock, presented by the Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association. There are 23 artists confirmed – check online at klcoa.org for studio locations. Also running July 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over the last 11 years, this event has raised more than $40,000 for the Art Council Haliburton Highlands' artists in schools and community programs.

July 18, 5:30 p.m. Giant Penny Raffle returns to Wilberforce. There will be over 150 prizes. Doors open from 1 to 3 p.m. for early viewing, with the main event starting at 5:30 and main draw at 8 p.m. Proceeds support the Wilberforce Heritage Guild, Wilberforce Fair and FUNraising Group.

Aug. 7 and 8, the biggest little fair around returns for another year in Wilberforce. Great fun for the whole family. Enter competitions in advance or just come for the day. Get all the details at wilberforcefair.com.

Oct. 18, noon to 3:30 p.m. Fall planting workshop for seniors at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care in Minden. Learn techniques for fall planting and caring for spring bulbs, shrubs and flowering perennials. Pre-register to receive a free gift at the workshop. Clal 705-488-2613. Hosted by the Haliburton County Master Gardeners.

Highlander classifieds

SERVICES

HANDYMAN – Carpentry, General Repairs. Call or Text Doug at 416-889-8534

DO YOU HAVE a wet slip boathouse falling in the Lake? If so, we can help! Also Decks, Lifts & Excavation work. Call 705-957-8617 to get started!

HIGHLAND GREENERIES - We take care of your gardens so you can enjoy them. Garden Services: Garden Cleanups (Spring & Fall), Mulching, Weeding & Edging, Pruning & Seasonal Cutbacks, Ongoing Garden Maintenance. Also Offering: Spring/ Fall Yard Cleanups, Leaf Removal & Raking. Proudly serving the Haliburton Highlands and surrounding areas. Highlandgreeneries@hotmail.com 705-455-2813 / 705-455-2156

GENERAL CARPENTRY – 40 years of experience. Small jobs welcome. Free quote. Call Bill at 705-372-3778

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PAINTER - Professional, experienced, and dependable painter available for residential and commercial projects — from a single room to an entire home or office. Minor repairs included at no additional charge. Decks! Power washed and stained. Call or text 647-213-2875 for a free estimate or call 705-447-2213

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $140. per face cord – pick up. Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE - Haliburton Micromeadows Native Plant Nursery - Open Fri-Mon, 10am-4pm at 1274 Lochlin Rd., Minden (located on private property). We carry a wide variety of native Ontario perennials, grasses, small trees and shrubs for gardens and habitat projects. Visit haliburton micromeadows.ca or follow us on Facebook @haliburton micromeadows

FOR SALE – Sail Boat CL11 $350. Location Drag Lake. Call 705-457-2176 after 3 p.m.

FOR SALE – Seabreeze 14 ft Kayak with paddle & additional accessories. $500. Please call 705-306-0319

FOR SALE – 2025 FORTRESS S-425 Electric Scooter plus enclosed Trailer with ramp. Both in excellent condition. Call or Text 416-843-7938

FOR RENT

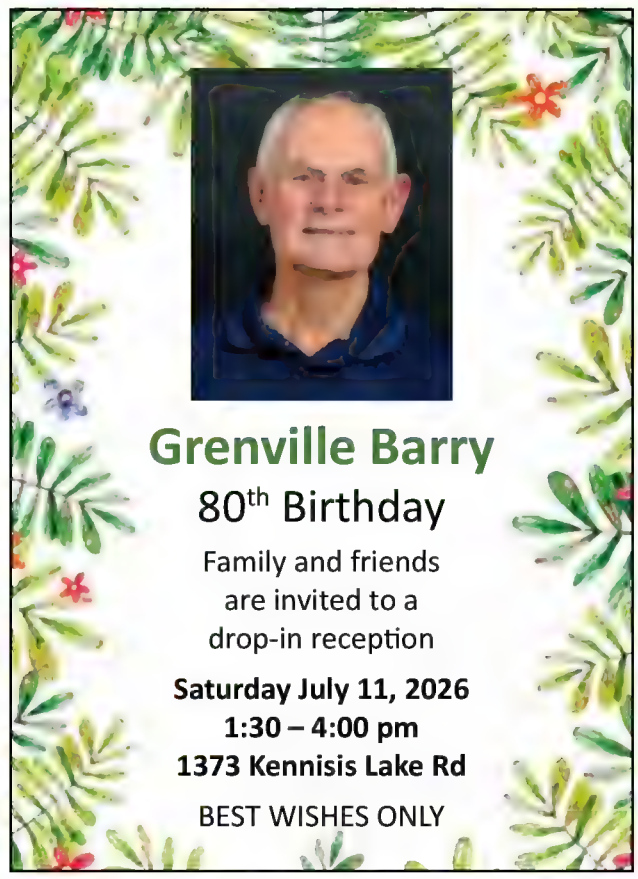
FOR RENT – Haliburton Village Condo, 4 Lake Ave. Beautiful 2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom, top floor. Stunning views of Head Lake, open concept floor plan, freshly painted. Includes exclusive heated parking space, storage locker, radiant heating, hydro, water, stainless appliances $3,000. per month. 12 month lease preferred, shorter term can be arranged. Contact 705-455-7568 or e-mail to roxboroughdan@gmail.com

YARD SALE

A GARAGE SALE TO END ALL GARAGE SALES – 1129 Wonderland Rd, Haliburton. 4 days only – Thursday, July 2nd to Sunday, July 5th from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you don't like the price – make an offer – everything must go! Workshop Closing – Power tools, hand tools, hardware, fasteners, screws, nails etc. Table Saw blades, thickness planer, electric chain saw & sharpener, Battery charger. Snowblower – brand new head, valves, push rods & carburettor kit. Hand made crafts, fabric & wool – Works of Art. Glassware & Dishes – antique & contemporary. Many other items too numerous to mention. New stuff every day. CASH ONLY (No $100. Bills Please)

THANK YOU

BIRTHDAY INVITE



YARD SALE

We are back for another year with our annual GIGANTICO Garage Sale! - 1003 Moonrise Bay Lane (off of Hospitality Road) South Lake, Minden. Thursday, July 2nd from noon to 6 p.m. Friday, July 3rd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Saturday, July 4th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Follow our road signs! RAIN OR SHINE

YARD SALE – 1576 Mumford Road, Harcourt. Friday, July 3rd & Saturday, July 4th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Furniture, home décor, kitchenware, electrics, tools & hardware, Dune Buggy and 8N Tractor (running) Collectibles, Seasonal items (camping items, winter gear) And much more!

YARD SALE – 1434 Kashagawigamog Lake Road, Friday, June 3rd, Saturday, June 4th & Sunday, June 5th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Downsizing, everything from antiques to power tools and much more!

BIG YARD SALE – Hunter Creek Estates, Minden. Saturday, July 11th & Sunday, July 12th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. "Multiple residents participating"

HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires:

One (1) Procurement Coordinator

This role is responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the procurement process in accordance with applicable regulations, legislation, trade agreements, industry best practices and the County's purchasing policies. This role ensures that all procurement documentation and communications comply with legislation and the County's policy for open, transparent, and competitive bidding and tendering processes.

The successful candidate will possess a public purchasing designation, five years of experience and relevant post-secondary education. Hourly wage range is $36.32 - $42.29.

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **July 10, 2026**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

YARD SALE

YARD SALE – 17 Brohm Drive, Haliburton. Saturday, July 4th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Too many items to list, something for everyone!

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Highlander classifieds

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Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED

Canadian Mental Health Association
Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge
Mental health for all

Point in Time
Centre for Children, Youth and Parents

Youth Mental Health Worker

The Youth Mental Health Worker is a partnership between the Canadian Mental Health Association, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (CMHA HKPR) and Point in Time Centre for Children Youth and Parents - Youth Wellness Hub (YWH).

Under the collaborative direction of the CMHA HKPR Manager and the YWH Manager, working within the context of a multidisciplinary team, the Youth Mental Health Worker (YMHW) will provide evidence informed mental health interventions and addiction/ harm reduction supports to youth, ages 12-25. Using a client-centered approach, the YMHW will use evidence informed screening and assessment tools to provide therapeutic supports and/or interventions to youth, including but not limited to solution-focused narrative therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, and motivational interviewing to youth. This position will have a specialty focus on supporting people with one or more of the following self-identifications: gender diverse, LGBTQI, neuro diverse, intellectual disability, FASD, and learning disability.

Location: Haliburton
Status: Full-time
Posting#YMHW-FT-06-26
Wage: $30.95/hour to $32.38/hour

Application Deadline: 12:00 noon on July 10th, 2026

To apply, please visit the Careers page on
Canadian Mental Health Association website: www.cmhahkpr.ca

Point in Time and CMHA HKPR are committed to building an organization that reflects the communities we work with and encourages applications from diverse backgrounds. Point in Time will provide accommodations during the recruitment process to ensure equal access to applicants with disabilities, upon the request of the applicant.

Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation

Is looking for a

CLEANING / MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation is seeking a reliable and self-motivated Cleaning/Maintenance Assistant to join our team in Minden. This is currently a part-time position (30 hours per week), with the potential to evolve into a full-time position.

Primary duties include maintaining cleanliness of all buildings, common areas, laundry rooms, washrooms, etc. Secondary duties include minor maintenance repairs, painting, groundskeeping, garbage disposal, and assisting the Maintenance Supervisor with apartment turnovers.

Successful applicants will have experience in cleaning, the ability to work independently and a sound knowledge of employment safety regulations. WHMIS certification desired. A valid drivers license and abstract plus a Vulnerable Sector Police Check will be required.

This position includes employer paid benefits (medical, dental, vision, life insurance and OMERS Pension). Wage: $20.00 per hour. Start date: July 20, 2026.

Please submit your resume no later than 4:30 p.m. - July 10, 2026 to: Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation, 44 Parkside Street, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 or email: manager@staanworth.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation 705-286-3444
44 Parkside St, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 manager@staanworth.ca

YARD SALE

YARD SALE – 1017 Miners' Bay Road, Saturday, July 4, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.Canadiana, Antiques, Post Cards, Old Records, Rocks and Minerals, Coins, Stamps, First Day Covers, Hand Made Rocking Horse, 50" Diameter Solid Oak Round Table, 1860 Jelly Cupboard, American Civil War Books and Artifacts, Old Books, Set of 4 Snow Tires on Rims (235/55R17 993), c. 1947 Model 2N Ford Ferguson Tractor in Running Condition, Seasoned Rough Cut Planks and Boards, some Live Edge, c. 1940 Canadian Buffalo Drill Press, much more…

YARD SALE – 1135 Mervyn Beatty Lane (Beatty's Sugar Bush) Starting Friday, July 3rd every day for 2 weeks. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vintage Coleman Lamps, stoves & accessories. Antique oil lamps, home décor items, kitchen supplies, Christmas decorations. Lots for everyone, come & check it out. Rain or Shine!

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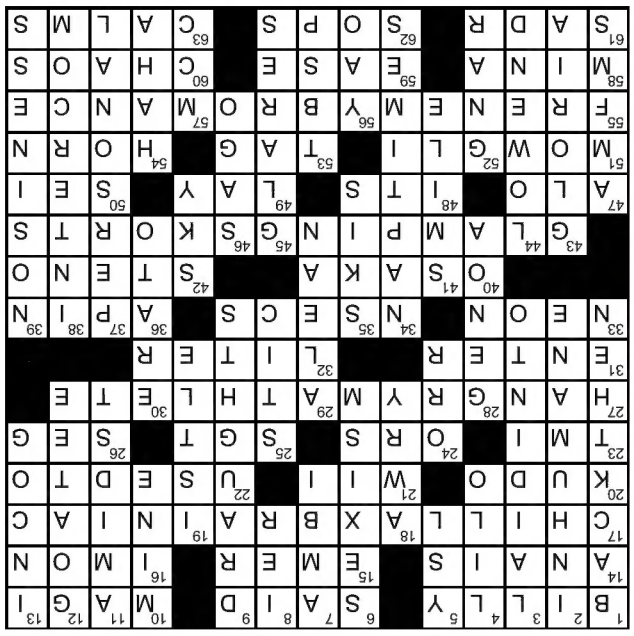
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



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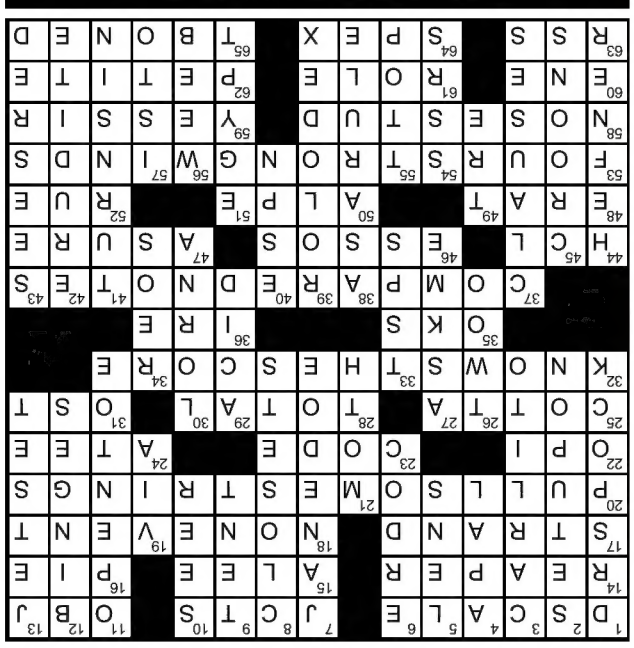

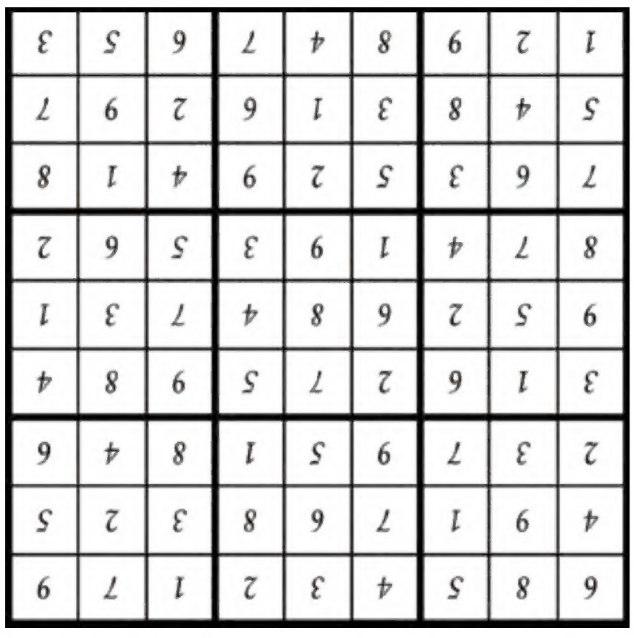

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Phil Sidsworth

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Phil Sidsworth, a devoted husband, father, grandfather and cherished friend to many.

Phil passed away peacefully on June 22, 2026 in Haliburton Hospital with his wife and boys by his side, leaving behind a legacy of love and kindness that touch all who had the privilege of knowing him. Born on March 16, 1956, in Toronto, Phil lived a life rich with family, friends, and fulfilling passions.

Phil's life was a testament to dedication and affection particularly towards his beloved family. As a devoted husband to Elaine, and proud father to Ryan (Denise) and Michael, Phil's heart was filled with unconditional love that extended to his treasured grandchildren, Brooklyn and Leanne. He was pre deceased by his Mother, Carol Sidsworth, by his brother Paul Woods and is survived by his brother Mark Sidsworth.

Special thanks to the Dr's and Nursing team in the Acute Care at Haliburton Hospital for the dedicated care and support they richly provided.

A get together to celebrate Phil's life will be arranged at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family would be grateful for donations directed to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario KoM 2Ko.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Laura Ann Willis (Johnson)

July 11, 1952

Laura passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 after a courageous journey with Alzheimer's.

Laura leaves behind her loving husband Dave and his children Tanya (Glen) and Teresa (Kevin), her brother Doug (Debbie) and their children Hailey, Harley and Leif. She loved her grandchildren James, Ian, Sydney and Dylan and was proud of each of them.

Laura was a devoted teacher at Haliburton Highlands Secondary where she dedicated her life to shaping young minds and bodies with patience, passion and encouragement. Teaching was more than a career to Laura, and she leaves behind many students that she guided and supported.

A celebration of Life will be held on Laura's birthday, July 11 at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. # 636, 12847 Hwy 35, Minden from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm.

If you're led to a donation in Laura's memory, donations to the Alzheimer's Society or local organizations would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario KoM 2Ko.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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In loving memory of

Murray Jonas Kuno

Born June 10, 1936 in New Carlow, Ontario. Murray passed peacefully, surrounded by family at Hospice North Hastings Bancroft, on June 19th, 2026 in his 91st year. Survived by his loving wife Marilyn (Jackson) of 66 years. During that time, they built their family of Stephanie (Hugh), Anita and Paul (Vicky). They became grandparents to Curtis (Hannah), Tom (Emily), Jessie (Gaige), Evan (Hannah) and great grandparents to Arthur. Murray was the son of Bill and Sadie Kuno who also lived into their 90's. He will be missed by his sisters Anne (Gerry) and Linda, as well as his brother-in-law Bill (Bev). He will be joining his siblings that have gone before him, Lois, Marie, infant brother Orville and Lorna. He will be greatly missed by his many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Murray was an avid outdoor enthusiast enjoying hunting, logging, making maple syrup, snowmobiling, camping, gardening and fishing. He started the Haliburton Trout Farm in 1984 which is now the H.H.O.A. Haliburton Fish Hatchery. He was a talented athlete playing both baseball and softball in his younger years being fleet of foot. This young man met his future bride at the Bow Lake dance hall one summer. They married the next year in 1959 and moved to Haliburton in 1960. He learned to curl in the early 60's, loving both the competition and socialization. Having a passion for the sport, he became president of the Haliburton Curling Club in 1968 and again in 1979. After retirement, Murray and Marilyn spent 17 winters at Tucson Estates Arizona playing competitive shuffleboard and making friends.

Murray had a 29-year career with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario. Starting on the survey crew and working his way to Project Supervisor for Provincial Road Construction, Huntsville district.

Murray always had a project on the go whether building houses (5 in total), digging ponds, developing a red pine plantation, woodworking or traveling, to name a few.

Murray and Marilyn moved back to Maynooth in 2002 doing what they enjoyed best, visiting with friends and family, entertaining with abundant meals, playing cards and games, watching sports and telling stories.

The family wishes to thank Hospice North Hastings, Ontario Health at Home, Community Paramedics and Care North Hastings for all their care, support and professional expertise.

At the family's request, cremation has taken place. The family will receive friends and relatives at Christ Lutheran Church, 9 Lutheran Church Road in Maynooth, Ontario on July 18th 2026 between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. A service will be held at noon with Rev. Randy Liedtke officiating. Burial will take place at a later date at Christ Lutheran Church cemetery in Maynooth.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to Hospice North Hasting, Christ Lutheran Church or a charity of your choosing would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to M.G. Daly Funeral Home, Maynooth. (613) 338-3259 (Condolence messages may be e-mailed to dalyfuneralhome@bellnet.ca or visit www.mgdalyfuneralhome.com).

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NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

NOTICE

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NOTICE

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 83 Maple Ave. Unit 7A in Haliburton Halco Plaza, behind Castle Antiques. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

Highlander puzzles

Alternative Music

by Barbara Olson
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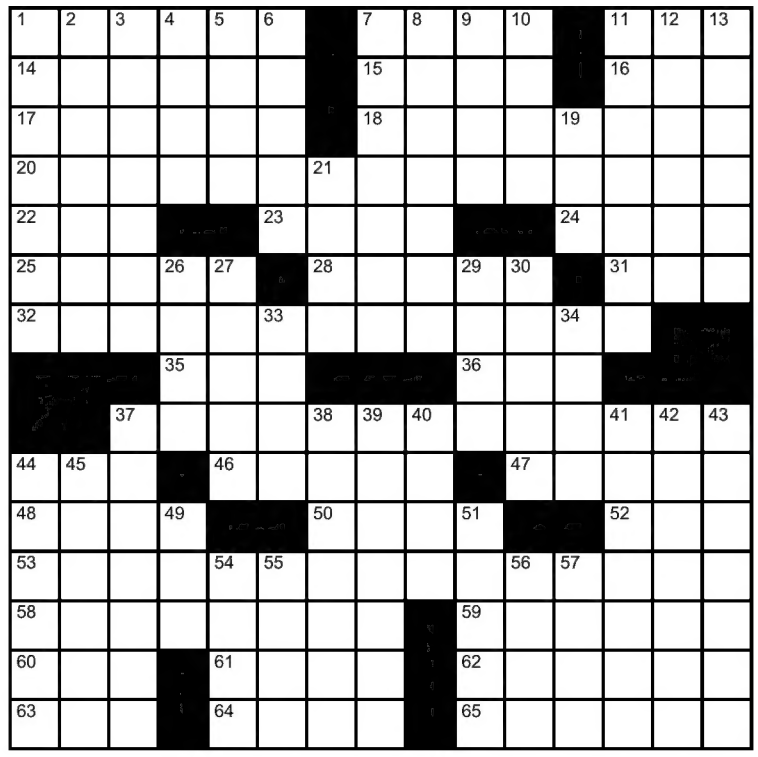

Across

1 Run with two sharps
7 Hwy. intersections
11 Pt. of U.F.O.
14 "Grim" scythe wielder
15 On the safe side, at sea
16 Trivial Pursuit token
17 Hair brush remnant
18 Nothingburger
20 Pare down the violin section?
22 Nail polish brand
23 Cryptographer's concern
24 Do to ___ (ace)
25 Terra ___ (fired clay)
28 Wreck beyond repair
31 East, in Berlin
32 Is a well-prepared conductor?
35 Green-lights
36 Steamed state
37 Measured Bach's composition against Brahms's?
44 Corrosive chemical, to chemists
46 Petro-Canada rivals
47 "It's ___ bet!"
48 "He was," to Caesar
50 Mont Blanc, par exemple
52 Word on the street in Québec?
53 A quartet of burly flautists?
58 Beak bling
59 "You got it, Sergeant!"
60 Acetyl- add-on
61 Film auditioner's success
62 Little ladies' size
63 Blog feed format
64 Eyewear, in brands
65 Slammed broadside

Down

1 "Baby and Childcare" writer
2 Besiege
3 Pacino in a De Palma film
4 "Aw, c'mon, bud, be ___"
5 Capped camera part
6 Phys. doing triage
7 Anonymous lady, in a suit
8 Place for skirts or skeletons
9 Shelter with a zip door
10 One with an eye to the future
11 Piggy-showing shoe
12 Unrestrained stints
13 High-flying socialites
19 Canadian rail line
21 Lightbulb flutterer
26 ___'clock (0200 or 1400 hours)
27 "Don't ___" (shrugger's words)
29 It turns blue litmus paper red
30 Canadian poet Crozier
33 "Joy of Cooking" abbr.
34 Antique Speed Wagons
37 Contract sections
38 Generally speaking
39 Low-tech contacts file
40 "Baseball Tonight" airer
41 Hits the hay
42 Like well-read scholars
43 Becomes boiling mad
44 Hugh with bunnies
45 Sings à la Michael Bublé
49 Quattro - uno
51 Mummy's home
54 15 divs. on old maps
55 Corvette roof feature
56 Slang for a superfan of all things Japanese
57 :, in a ratio

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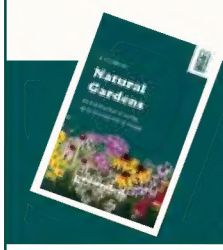

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8								
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		8	3		6			
	2	9	8				5	

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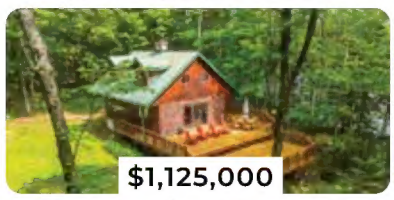


$1,125,000

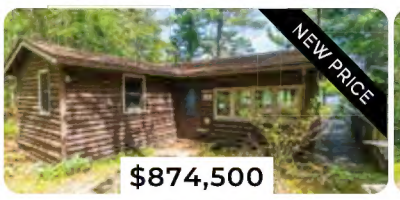
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13427758

KENNISIS LAKE

$1,095,000

BED 4 | BATH 3 | MLS #X13432064

GOODERHAM LAKE



$874,500

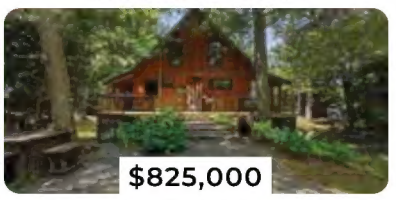
BED 3+2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12954018

HIGHWAY 35, MINDEN

$849,000

BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12953212

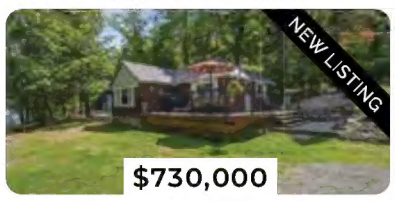
BARNUM LAKE



$825,000

BED 3 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13467094

KUSHOG LAKE



$730,000

BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13467324

LONG LAKE

$699,900

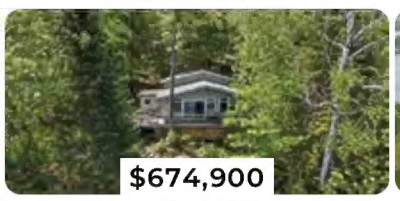
BED 6 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13034386

KENNISIS RIVER

$695,000

BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13135162

DRAG LAKE



$674,900

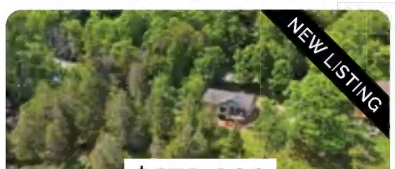
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS X13421336

REYNOLDS ROAD

$635,000

BED 3 | BATH 2+1 | MLS #X13185368

HALIBURTON VILLAGE



$639,000

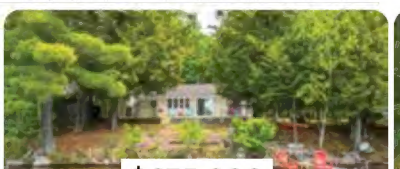
BED 2+1 | BATH 3 | MLS #X13454954

HALIBURTON VILLAGE

$629,500

BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13481332

SOUTH PORTAGE LAKE



$635,000

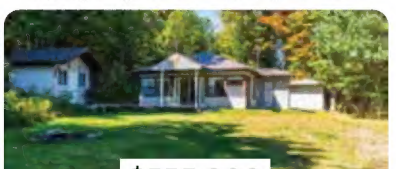
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13420872

KOSHLONG LAKE RD

$579,000

3.48 ACRES | MLS #X13444274

WEST SETTLEMENT RD



$555,000

BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13163216

SILVER BEACH

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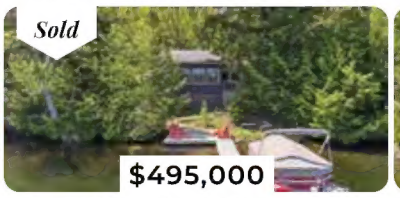
BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13113762

KUSHOG LAKE, HWY 35

$499,900

BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12604142

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE



$495,000

BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13096532

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE

$460,000

BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13222622

GULL RIVER

$449,500

BED 2+1 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13147762

COUNTY ROAD 503

$430,000

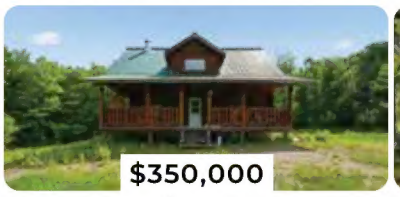
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13111224

GLAMOR LAKE ROAD

$398,500

BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13122288

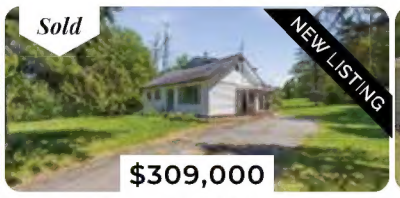
MCREA ROAD



$350,000

BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13490618

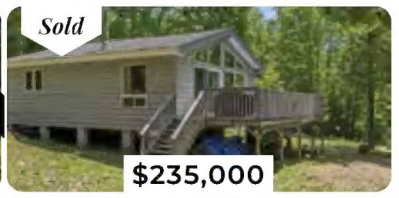
LOOP ROAD



$309,000

BED 4 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13248190

TATTERSAL ROAD



$235,000

BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13247406

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